THURSDAY
December 11, 2025

BENGALURU
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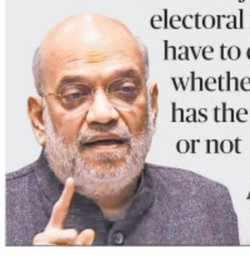
Illegal immigrants will be detected, deported: Shah

Minister claims Opposition is against SIR because it wants to keep infiltrators on poll rolls, says 'some families' are 'generational vote *chors*'; hitting back, Rahul says the BJP leader was defensive

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Can any country remain safe if the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister is decided by infiltrators? Should one voter have vote at more than one place? Can dead people have their names in voter lists? This is just purifying electoral rolls... We have to decide whether a foreigner has the right to vote or not
>
> **AMIT SHAH**
> Home Minister



> Not a single word on providing digital, machine-readable, transparent voter rolls; no response on BJP leaders keeping and casting votes in multiple States; no response even on removing the CJI from the selection process [of ECs]; absurd response on granting immunity to the EC; the excuse for not providing CCTV footage is ridiculous
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader, in an X post

The National Democratic Alliance government will "detect, delete and deport" illegal immigrants from the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday, as the Lok Sabha witnessed a face-off during a discussion on electoral reforms, leading to an Opposition walkout.

Mr. Shah used his speech to respond to questions asked by Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi during the discussion on electoral reforms, which began on Tuesday and has largely focused on the contentious special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls announced by the Election Commission in June.

A combative Home Minister accused Mr. Gandhi of trying to spread falsehoods through his claims of "vote *chori* (theft)", adding that "some families" were "generational vote *chors* (thieves)". He also accused Opposition parties of objecting to the SIR because they want to keep "infiltrators" on the electoral rolls.

When Mr. Shah spoke about the EC's clarifications on the LoP's allegations of malpractice in the Haryana elections, Mr. Gandhi challenged him to a debate on the allegations. The Congress leader asked the Home Minister to respond to the questions he had asked on the first day of the debate about why Election Commissioners (ECs) were granted immunity from prosecution under the 2023 law on the appointment of ECs and Chief Election Commissioners.

At this, Mr. Shah said that while he would respond to all questions raised by the LoP, nobody could dictate in which order he would speak. "I will decide the order of my topics and not him," he said.

Mr. Gandhi responded by saying that the Home Minister was defensive and looked like a worried man. He later reiterated his claim outside the House after the walkout, insisting that Mr. Shah had not responded to any of his questions.

Inside the House, Mr. Shah replied that he would not be provoked, adding that vote *chori* actually happens when the people's mandate is defied.

'No infiltrators'

Sparks flew as the Home Minister alleged that the intention of the Opposition was to keep the names of foreign infiltrators in the electoral rolls.

After the Opposition walked out, Mr. Shah responded, saying: "Even if they walk out 200 times, we will not allow even a single infiltrator."

The NDA government's motto is to "detect, delete and deport" using constitutional provisions, he said, declaring those three words in English during a speech which was otherwise in Hindi.

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Over ₹1.8 lakh crore invested under PLI schemes: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The various production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes active in the country have resulted in actual investment of over ₹1.88 lakh crore across 14 sectors as of June, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Wednesday.

In its year-end review, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade said that investments through the PLI schemes had resulted in incremental production and sales of over ₹17 lakh crore and employment generation of over 12.3 lakh, including both direct and indirect employment.

"P

The DPIIT said so far it had recognised 2,01,335 start-ups under the Startup India scheme, with these start-ups having created more than 21 lakh jobs.

In crackdown, DGCA to deploy 9 officials at IndiGo headquarters

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Launching a crackdown on IndiGo, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said on Wednesday that it will deploy nine senior officials to the airline's headquarters in Gurugram, Haryana, to monitor its fleet, pilot roster, network planning, and crew utilisation.

The aviation regulator has also summoned IndiGo chief executive officer (CEO) Pieter Elbers for a meeting on Thursday to explain the massive flight disruptions that have plagued India's largest airline since early December after it failed to plan for new rules that reduced night-time flying by pilots and increased their rest periods.

Mr. Elbers is likely to be quizzed on efforts to restore flights, pilot and cabin crew recruitment plans, refunds, and baggage return, among other passenger-centric concerns.

Two of the nine DGCA officials will monitor the status of refunds and compensation issued by the airline to passengers as well as flight delays and cancellations. The airline has not yet made any numbers public regarding the compensation amount. The DGCA's rules mandate ₹10,000 in compensation for cancellations when the flying time is two hours, and ₹20,000 for delayed, missing, and damaged baggage.

They will also carry out inspections at airports within the next two or three days and prepare a comprehensive report on the status of flight operations and the airline's handling of passengers.

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NEARBY

Cabinet may discuss, clear Bill on internal quota

BELAGAVI
The State government is expected to discuss and approve The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, at the Cabinet meeting on Thursday before moving it in the legislature during this Winter session. » PAGE 6

Rising egg prices hit teachers' income

BENGALURU
Skyrocketing prices of eggs are not just burning a hole in the pockets of regular consumers, but also teachers, who are paying from their own pockets to ensure its presence in midday meals. » PAGE 5

Bill providing for penalty, jail for hate speech tabled in Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, which prescribes penalty and imprisonment for hate crime, was tabled in the Assembly on Wednesday amid stiff resistance by Opposition members. In all, 12 Bills were tabled in the House on Wednesday.

The Opposition members, particularly from the BJP, opposed the Bill and shouted "no" when Speaker U.T. Khader sought the consent of the House for tabling the Bill. The entire Opposition expressed resentment and said it would not allow the Bill to be adopted by the House.

The Bill tabled by Home Minister G. Parameshwara seeks to curb and prevent dissemination, publication or promotion of hate speech and crimes that cause disharmony and hatred in society against any person or group of persons or organisations.

It defines hate crime as communication of hate speech, by making, publishing or circulating or any act of promoting, propagating, inciting or abetting or attempting such hate speech to cause disharmony or feelings or enmity or hatred or ill-will against any person dead or alive or group of persons or an organisation. It also seeks to punish whoever commits hate crime with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year and which may extend to seven years with a fine of ₹50,000.

For any subsequent or repetitive offices, the punishment shall not be less than two years which may extend to 10 years with a fine of ₹1 lakh. The Bill seeks to provide adequate compensation to victims.

Talking about the Bill with reporters later, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said: "This is on our agenda as we need to maintain peace and law and order in the State. Hate speech is not acceptable in any civic society."

In all, the Assembly saw the tabling of 12 Bills, including the Karnataka Rent (Amendment) Bill that seeks to achieve the principle of "minimum government maximum governance" by decriminalisation of minor offences and rationalisation of monetary penalties as envisaged in the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act 2023 (Central Act 18 of 2023).

The Karnataka Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill; the Drugs and Cosmetics (Karnataka Amendment) Bill; the Karnataka Cine and Cultural Activists (Welfare) (Amendment) Bill; and the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill were also tabled.

The other Bills that were tabled were: the Malnad Area Development Board (Amendment) Bill; the Bayaluseeme Development Board (Amendment) Bill; the Karnataka State Universities (Second Amendment) Bill; the Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill; the Chandraguthi Shree Renukamba Kshetra Development Authority Bill, and the Sri Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Kshetra Development Authority (Amendment) Bill.

What the Bill entails

- It aims to curb and prevent dissemination, publication or promotion of hate speech and crimes that cause disharmony and hatred
- It provides for one-year imprisonment which may extend to seven years with a fine of ₹ 50,000 for first time offence
- For subsequent offices, the punishment shall not be less than two years which may extend to 10 years with a fine of ₹ 1,00,000
- It provides for compensation to be paid to victims

Loco pilot was 'unfit' to run train: Bilaspur crash report

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The locomotive pilot of the commuter train that was involved in a deadly collision in Chhattisgarh last month was not "fit" to operate the train as he had no knowledge of the basic safety rules, according to an investigation report submitted this week.

The Mainline Electrical Multiple Unit (MEMU) train had sped past the signal in 'red' and collided with a stationary goods train on November 4, leaving 12 people dead, including the pilot. Another 19 people were injured.

Commissioner of Railway Safety Brijesh Kumar Mishra, who inquired into the circumstances that led to the devastating collision in the Bilaspur Division of South East Central Railway, reported that the loco pilot had lacked the qualities required to handle the MEMU train, including knowledge of the rules and timely decision making. He concluded that the loco pilot was not fit to work on the MEMU train.

In his report sent to the Railway Board on December 8, he said the loco pilot had "failed" in an aptitude test held on June 9.

CONTINUED ON
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FIDE

There can only be one goal in the Candidates: to play for first place

The 28-year-old player will be the first German to feature in the prestigious event since 1991; feels that keeping his nerves under control was key to the good show in the Grand Swiss; says it is great to see the huge interest for chess in India

INTERVIEW

Matthias Bluebaum

P.K. Ajith Kumar

No German has played at the Candidates since 1991. So Matthias Bluebaum gave German chess a reason to celebrate when he finished runner-up at the Grand Swiss tournament in September and became the first player after Robert Hubner to make it to the Candidates, the qualifying event to determine the challenger for the World championship.

Bluebaum, who was in the North Goan village of Arpora recently for the Chess World Cup, spoke on various topics including the rise of the sport in Germany. **Excerpts:**

On Germany's resurgence in chess of late

With Vincent Keymer, we have a top player now. He is the World No. 4. We also have players like Frederik Svane, Donchenko and myself, and we have done well at the World Cup.

We just have a lot of strong, and still more or less young, players. I mean, I am the oldest of this generation, at 28.

On looking forward to the Candidates tournament

I am definitely looking forward to it, and the location (Cyprus) seems nice for me. It is in Europe, so there is no huge time difference, which is of course already quite a small bonus. I guess it is like just a one-hour time difference.

I am just looking forward to playing there. Even though I will be a huge underdog, there can only be one goal in this tournament: to play for first place. That is the only place that matters, after all.

So even as an underdog, I have to try to do that. I hope to do my best there.

On what clicked for him at Grand Swiss in Uzbekistan, where he produced his career-best show

I was playing decent chess. I was not making many mistakes. But you also have to get a bit lucky in a sense for things to go well.

I made more or less boring draws in the first two games. And then in the third round, I got a nice win. And also, in the fourth round, I could win. And then suddenly, my score was plus two.

After that I played against R. Praggnanandhaa; he wanted to win with black pieces, but he just made an error in time trouble. Of course, he is a stronger player and he was putting himself under a bit of pressure to beat me, because he was probably feeling it was a game he could win and it would increase his chances to do well. I was just lucky in a sense that people were pushing against me.

And I could collect some points. I was playing quite well. If you win against top players you have to play really well. You can't just get lucky. You also have to actually find some good moves. But, yeah, everything went perfectly for me at the Grand Swiss.

In the end, it was just about keeping control of the nerves and just surviving the last games. In the last round, I already knew a draw would give me great chances. But still, you get nervous and you know you are playing one of the best players in the world. It was tough, but somehow I managed to keep my nerves in control.

On him being more consistent as a player these days

It is not that I play different openings or completely changed my way to study chess. Something is just clicking right. Chess is also a very mental game. It is really also just being in the right mindset, to just feel confident about your moves and just trust your calculations. Once you are in the right mindset, things might just click. And right now that is a good phase for me.

On playing against fellow-Germans in tournaments like the World Cup and Grand Swiss

It is always very tough. I don't like playing against the other Germans. It is quite tough for me. I have known everybody more or less since childhood. And I don't really enjoy playing against them, but it is also part of the process.

At the Grand Swiss, I also had to play this game against Vincent, which turned out to be quite decisive for the tournament. And there I just got lucky in the end. We are all professionals and we have to play against each other from time to time if that is the pairing.

On playing at the World Cup without having the pressure of qualifying for the Candidates

On the one hand, less pressure can be helpful, but on the other, it can also be bad because I was lacking motivation to prepare for as many hours as I did during the Grand Swiss. Sometimes it can be helpful because you are not so stressed and you just feel like you can play freely.

But sometimes it can also have some opposite effect, like you are not as motivated as your opponent. But one thing is clear: many favourites got knocked out at the World Cup. It is normal for the (knock-out) format, but it also just shows that the general strength of chess players is very high and that everybody can beat everyone.

On large number of fans coming to watch the World Cup in Goa

It is always great to see interest in chess. There have been many fans waiting outside the playing venue, which is great. In Germany, too, interest has also increased in the last few years, but it is nowhere close to this level.

Yes, it is a bit unusual for a chess player. We usually are a bit shy, introverted and do not interact too much with people.

Here, you are kind of forced to give autographs and do pictures or something, but it is quite nice.

There are so many fans. At the end of the day, that is what you want: for the sport to grow and have a good fan base. So it has been great.

The interest is huge in India. It is clearly one of the biggest countries in the last few years. They won the last Olympiad with a huge performance, and they have the current World champion.

On becoming a professional chess player in Germany

In Germany, I had to finish school anyway, and then after school, I took a one-year break along with one friend of mine who was also Grandmaster with a 2600 rating, so also a very strong chess player. We both finished school at the same time, and we both played chess for one year.

But then we both went on studying, because it is still the normal thing to do in Germany. Also, I have three older sisters who all went studying, so for me, it was just not even really a question. I was sure at some point I was going to study.

I never really dreamt of becoming a chess professional at that point. Okay, I always kept playing chess. I already had a rating of 2600 when I started studying.

Once I finished studying, I told myself, okay, if not now, there will be no choice anywhere else to become a chess professional.

Either now or never, because if you start a job, you can't be a chess professional at the same time. Also, when I finished my bachelor's degree, it was COVID time, so there was no way to even play chess.

Actually, it was kind of nice I could still study online, so I could still do that. After finishing my master's thesis, I just felt it was the perfect time to focus on chess. So I have been doing that for three years, and I guess for the moment, I am definitely going to continue playing chess professionally.

I am still not sure if I am going to do it for my whole life, but for now, of course, it is going really well, especially this year, so I am very happy about that.

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INNOCEAN-064/25

J BG-BGE

Uber passengers can now book Namma Metro tickets on app

The feature has already been adopted in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, and Bengaluru is the latest metro city where Uber is integrating public transport into its ecosystem; the app supports UPI payments and provides real-time metro information

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Metro commuters in Bengaluru can now purchase tickets directly through the Uber app. On Wednesday, the ride-hailing company launched QR-based ticketing powered by the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The app supports UPI payments and provides real-time metro information.

The feature has already been adopted in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai, and Bengaluru is the latest metro city where Uber is integrating public transport into its ecosystem.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has enabled QR ticketing through the ONDC, where metro tickets will be available via popular consumer-facing apps. K. MURALI KUMAR

Strengthens connectivity

BMRCL Managing Director J. Ravishankar welcomed the integration, noting that it fits into Namma Metro's 'multi-operator' approach to digital ticketing. "Uber's initiative to integrate Namma Metro ticketing into its platform through ONDC makes travel more seamless for commuters. Uber's entry also strengthens first- and last-mile connectivity, and expands commuter choice," he said.

In a push towards enhancing digital access and seamless travel, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has enabled QR ticketing through the ONDC, where metro tickets will be available via popular consumer-facing apps.

Currently, passengers can book Namma Metro tickets on integrated apps such as EaseMyTrip, Highway Delite, Miles & Kilometres (via Telegram), Namma Yatri, OneTicket, Rapido, Redbus, Tummoc, and Yatri - City Travel Guide. These are in addition to the existing platforms – the Namma Metro mobile app, the WhatsApp chatbot (8105556677), and the Paytm app.ation'

Alongside metro ticketing, Uber also announced its entry into the B2B logistics space through Uber Direct, a service that operates on ONDC's digital infrastructure. The initiative is part of Uber's plan to strengthen its multi-service platform in India by combining mobility, delivery and digital commerce.

Calling Bengaluru a 'playground for innovation', Prabhjeet Singh, president, Uber India and South Asia, said the city was a natural choice for expanding Uber's integration with ONDC. "The launch of metro ticketing and Uber Direct in the city helps us bring alive our vision to help people 'Go anywhere, get anything'. We are excited to build that at scale with ONDC," he said.

Unlike Uber Courier, which is directly booked by app users, Uber Direct functions as a logistics engine for enterprises, and remains invisible to the end-consumer.

Orders are placed on a seller's website or app, and Uber delivers the item without any user interaction until the driver arrives at the doorstep. The company said this makes Uber Direct a "standardised, plug-and-play solution" for businesses looking for reliable and scalable delivery support.

The logistics service went live in Bengaluru on December 10, with Uber fulfilling grocery deliveries for Zepto and KPN Farm Fresh via ONDC. Within the next two weeks, Uber Direct will begin handling food delivery for multiple brands, including KFC, Burger King, Taco Bell and Rebel Foods.

Decision on IPL matches at Chinnaswamy stadium after Cabinet discussion: DKS

Newly elected Karnataka State Cricket Association president Venkatesh Prasad with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chif Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Belagavi on Wednesday.

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A decision on allowing IPL matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru will be taken after discussing the issue in the State Cabinet meeting scheduled to be held in Belagavi on Thursday, said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday.

Newly elected president of KSCA Venkatesh Prasad met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar in Belagavi on Wednesday.

Speaking to presspersons later, Mr. Shivakumar said: "We have no intention of stopping cricket matches at the stadium. But we have to think of crowd control measures. We will also have to incorporate Michael Cunha Committee's suggestions in this regard in a phased manner. Mr. Prasad has also agreed to it. Our government is committed to cricket and cricket fans without denting the reputation of the State," he said.

He said that the government would not allow any match, including those of the IPL, to be shifted out of Bengaluru. "We will have to work together on this. Our government has offered to build new stadiums," said the Deputy Chief Minister.

Bengaluru Central Corporation cracks down on illegal flex boards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Central City Corporation on Wednesday began an extensive crackdown on illegal flex boards, and carried out a citywide cleanliness drive, acting on directions from Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao. The initiative, led by Commissioner Rajendra Cholan, focused on clearing unauthorised hoardings and banners that officials said were cluttering the city's visual landscape.

The drive spanned key stretches across Shantinagar, Chamarajpet, C.V. Raman
Nagar, Chickpet, and other areas where illegal flexes were found in large numbers. The corporation also conducted a mass cleanliness drive.

Unauthorised flex boards being removed during a drive in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One of the most intensive drives was carried out at K.R. Market, where teams used tractors, construction machinery, auto tippers and other machinery to remove silt, discarded furniture, construction debris, and heaps of accumulated waste. The clean-up drew positive responses from traders and visitors, who welcomed the improved conditions in the bustling market, Mr. Cholan said.

South Corporation orders action against unauthorised buildings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru South Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh on Wednesday held a workshop for its officers on identifying, preventing, and removing unauthorised constructions within its jurisdiction.

Mr. Ramesh directed officials to take firm action against buildings that violate sanctioned plans or are constructed without approval.

The Commissioner pointed out that officers have now been vested with clear powers to act against such violations under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, and must use these powers rigorously.

During the session, officials were trained in procedures to curb unauthorised construction and ensure compliance with approved building plans. They were also briefed on identifying violations, issuing notices, and initiating demolition or clearance measures where required.

The Commissioner added that engineers from the Town Planning Department will be responsible for inspecting suspected violations, while Joint Commissioners will issue notices for such cases.

Moreover, a dedicated task force will be formed to implement the removal of unauthorised structures, Mr. Ramesh said.

Mr. Ramesh also said the corporation has revised park timings in its jurisdiction after residents and a few MLAs complained that parks remaining open through the afternoon were being misused. Parks now will be open from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. and again from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. He did not specify when the new schedule will come into effect.

Christ hosts 34th edition of ESPRIT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The School of Business & Management (BBA), Christ (Deemed-to-be-University), through the Christ University School of Business & Management Association (CUSBMA) - BBA, is hosting the 34th edition of ESPRIT, the annual international undergraduate management fest, on Wednesday and Thursday.

As a collaborative body of students and faculty coordinators from the BBA programme, CUSBMA plays a central role in driving leadership initiatives, academic engagement, and major student-led events on campus, said a release from the organisers.

"This year, over 50 teams from over 25 universities across the globe will compete, reaffirming ESPRIT's reputation as one of the country's most anticipated platforms for emerging business leaders. This year's theme, 'Sententia Aeternum: Every Decision Leaves a Golden Trace,' reflects a deep commitment to purposeful leadership and thoughtful action," the release further added.

Inspired by the symbolic transformation at the heart of alchemy, the theme underscores the idea that every decision, however small, creates lasting outcomes.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

IN FOND MEMORY OF
Dr.N.C. KRISHNAN, F.C.A.
On the Occasion of the THIRTY THIRD ANNIVERSARY

Birth : 29.3.1928 Death : 11.12.1992
Inserted by : Staff & Partners of M/s. S.VISWANATHAN LLP, Chennai-4.

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FORM NO. INC-26
[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another state
BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
(REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SOUTH EAST REGION)
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of
AISIN AUTOMOTIVE KARNATAKA PRIVATE LIMITED
having CIN : U34300KA2011FTC061803
and its Registered Office at
Plot No. 106(P) ,107 & 108(P)
KIADB Industrial Area, Narasapura
Kolar - 563 133, Karnataka
("Company" or "Petitioner Company")

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company proposes to make an application to the Central Government (Regional Director, South East Region), under Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed by the members of the Company at the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting held on 8th December 2025 to enable the Company to shift its registered office from the "**State of Karnataka**" to the "**State of Haryana**".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the Company may deliver **either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form** or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South East Region, at the address - 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhawan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500 068, Telangana, within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the Petitioner Company at its registered office mentioned below:

Mr. Masakazu Sakai
Managing Director & CEO
Aisin Automotive Karnataka Private Limited
Plot No. 106(P) ,107 & 108(P)
KIADB Industrial Area, Narasapura
Kolar - 563 133, Karnataka

Date: 11-12-2025
Place: Bengaluru

For and on behalf of
Aisin Automotive Karnataka Private Limited
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Masakazu Sakai
Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 09447615

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARUNKUMAR s/o Dattatrey, r/o H.No:3–2–1, Dattaya Galli, Chowbara Road Bidar–585401, have changed the name of my daughter(minor) Aditri, aged 6–years and she shall hereafter be known as Sreelaya.

I, SILPA Annappagari w/o Dinesh Hanumanthappagari residing at No.4AC-313, 3rd B Main, Kasturi Nagar, Near Sri Sai Eye Hospital, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560016 have changed my name to Shilpa Annappagari vide affidavit dated 08/12/2025 before Meer Hassan Notary, Bengaluru.

I, MOHAMAD Hamaad Sait S/o Mohammed Afzal Sait residing at No.13, Harris Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046 have changed my name to Muhammad Hammad Sait vide affidavit dated 08/12/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

I, ILYAZ Ahmed S/o Abdul Gaffoor residing at No.16, MT Street, 8th Cross, 8th Main, Maramma Temple, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560001 have changed my name to Ilyas Ahmed vide Affidavit dated 08/12/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

I, SURESH Kumar Mehta R/at No.79, 1st Main, 2nd Stage, West of Chord Road, Bengaluru-560086 have changed my name from Suresh Kumar Mehta to Mithalal Suresh Kumar Mehta vide affidavit dated 09-12-2025 sworn before Notary Mamatha.N.K, Bengaluru.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XIX ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-18)
P & SC No. 658/2025
BETWEEN:- 1.Smt.M.S.Anasuya Wife of Late N. Anandan Aged about 68 years **2. A.Bhagyalakshmi** Daughter of Late N. Anandan Aged about 33 years. Both are residing at No. 10, 1 cross, New Pension Lane, J.J.R. Nagar Main Road, Near Mariyamma Temple, Bengaluru-560 018
PETITIONERS
AND:- Nil
RESPONDENT
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the petitionershave instituted a petition under section 372 of Indian Succession Act for Succession Certificate in the name of 1 petitioner enabling the petitioner schedule Family pension benefits on account of death of her husband N. Anandan on 04.08.2021. Petitioner No.2 is daughter of late N. Anandan, if any interested parties or their legal heirs are hereby called upon to appear in this court either in person or by a pleader, duly instructed on 24.01.2026 at 11.00 am to show cause against the petitioner if any failing where in the matter will be heard and determined exparte.
SCHEDULE
Family pensionary benefits and other benefits payable to the 1st petitioner on account of death of her husband N. Anandan on 04-08-2021.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on 8th Day of December 2025 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court
Senior Seristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
ADVOCATE FOR THE PETITIONER: **Mamatha.G**, Office at No. 16/A, II Stage, 1st Cross, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 086

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Breeding project gives endangered western tragopan breathing space

Experts warn that, despite the success of the captive breeding project, the species' long-term survival remains uncertain without simultaneous habitat protection; fewer than 9,500 individuals remain in the wild and climate change and encroachment continue to pose a threat

Aditya Ansh

The western tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*) is one of India's rarest pheasants and the state bird of Himachal Pradesh. It was once found across parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, but now survives in small, fragmented pockets.

Studies in the forests of Kazinag and Limber in Jammu & Kashmir have revealed that while habitats with suitable climates for the bird do exist, human disturbance and habitat fragmentation continue to endanger its future.

Conservationists at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have estimated that only 3,000-9,500 mature tragopans remain and that all belong to a single subpopulation. Roughly a quarter lie across the western Himalayas and the northern parts of Pakistan.

Yet deep inside Himachal Pradesh's Great Himalayan National Park, seasoned bird-watchers have said the tragopan still holds its ground.

A captive western tragopan at the Saharan Pheasantry. P. JEGANATHAN (CC BY-SA)

The Sarahan Pheasentry

"Seeing one in the wild is rare and depends a lot on planning and luck, where sightings are about 60% on well planned trips," said Panki Sood, a seasonal birdwatcher and a host at a travel company.

Wildlife Institute of India records say the first captive births took place in 1993. In 2005, the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department achieved a first when four western tragopan chicks hatched at the Sarahan Pheasantry, marking the world's first successful captive breeding programme in the world. From 2007 to 2015, 43 captive-born individuals were recorded, although their survival rates fluctuated due to skewed sex ratios and mortality among older birds. Genetic analysis further revealed that the entire captive population had originated from only eight wild founders, retaining about 87% of their genetic diversity.

Sarahan Pheasantry staff recalled how inconsistent the early years were.

"In 2007-2008, there were none at all," Ms. Keerthi (name changed on request), who has worked at the pheasantry for more than a decade, said. "There were no eggs, so no chicks. It was only after the biologists came that eggs and chicks finally began appearing."

"When I joined as a research fellow in 2011, the Sarahan Pheasantry hosted about 15 birds," Wildlife Institute of India senior fellow Lakshminarasimha R. recalled.

To stabilise the programme, the experts began to redesign core husbandry systems. "The primary approach was to develop protocols for managing species in captivity. We referred to how it behaved in the wild," Mr. Lakshminarasimha said.

Captive tragopans were very sensitive to stress, diseases, and the conditions in the artificial enclosure. Researchers thus recreated elements of their natural habitat, such as dense cover with specific nesting materials and incorporated seasonal dietary changes.

Everything from nesting material and vegetation to diet and feeding schedules were reworked to mimic the tragopan's natural habitat as closely as possible.

"We have 46 tragopans now," Ms. Keerthi added. "This year, seven or eight chicks hatched and five or six have survived."

Climate variability, breeding

"Captive breeding emerged as a tool of insurance against major declines," Rahul Kaul, chair of the Galliformes Specialist Group at the IUCN, said.

"But it was always meant to complement, not replace, habitat protection. Unfortunately, much emphasis and resources were laid on protecting and breeding tragopans from outside the wild [*ex-situ*] while the conservation of species in their natural habitats [*in-situ*] was hugely undermined."

Mr. Kaul has been closely involved with pheasant conservation across the Himalayas and also said the initiative was well-intentioned.

"The idea was to breed enough birds for release into identified habitats. Decades later and several crores of rupees spent, we are where we started in terms of conservation benefit. The forest department must be credited for their perseverance: they did produce birds, but without parallel habitat protection, the gains remain limited."

Ex-situ programmes have tried to build population security, but a greater threat today is the slow disruption of the tragopan's timing system that synchronises breeding, insect availability, and seasonal changes in the wild.

"Climate variability affects species like the tragopan through warming at lower altitudes and disruption of food resources," Mr. Kaul said.

"If breeding no longer synchronises with insect availability, the chicks may starve. The forests themselves hold the species together, allowing the pheasants to persist. In some areas of Pakistan, communities identify breeding zones and voluntarily leave them untouched until the chicks can fly. Maybe such adaptive models can be tried [in India] too."

> The entire objective was to move towards reintroduction. In 2020-2021, we carried out releases and results showed the approach was viable
>
> **R. LAKSHMINARASIMHA**
> WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA

Stalled rewilding attempt

At the Sarahan Pheasantry, where captive breeding continues, staff members said efforts to take the next step have wanted for support.

"The entire objective was to move towards reintroduction, specifically into forests surrounding Sarahan, and we were finally ready for it. In 2020-2021, we carried out experimental releases and results showed that the approach was viable," Mr. Lakshminarasimha said.

Sources from the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department also acknowledged the *ex-situ* programme had reached a stable phase. They added that the Pheasantry now consistently maintains over 40 western tragopans, with six to eight eggs hatching and four to five chicks surviving every year, figures made possible by years of refinement and expert inputs.

Returning tragopans to the wild is also the most demanding phase of the programme. One forest guard said the Pheasantry had conducted reintroduction trials for two years, releasing birds deep into the forest and tracking them using radio collars. One individual survived in the wild for nearly a year – a highly encouraging sign for such an early-stage attempt – until its tag's battery expired.

According to Forest Department sources (who wished to remain unnamed due to the sensitivity of commenting on reintroduction funding and programme status), reintroductions have been on hold since 2023 partly due to budgetary constraints linked to wider spending cuts by the State government. Some officials have also stressed that funding is only one part of the challenge.

"The real bottleneck," one official noted, "is the research and protocol development needed before each new release."

Before a tragopan can be returned to the wild, teams must check if release sites and food are available, monitor the birds' predators, and make sure the captive-bred birds can adapt to natural conditions. Mr. Narasimha said he's more hopeful. Reintroduction, he explained, "cannot happen overnight".

Like the decade-long effort that made captive breeding successful, reintroduction also demands patience, experimentation, and adaptive management: "You cannot draw conclusions from only a few attempts. This is a long-term commitment."

Community support

Despite these challenges, those working closest to the species believe the western tragopan's survival hinges on people as much as policy.

Mr. Sood said local stewardship had already shifted the trajectory: "Community-based tourism is one of the best ways to protect this rare bird."

He added that tourism offered local families an alternative income source that didn't depend on forest resources or grazing, giving them direct incentives to keep breeding areas undisturbed.

Since villagers stopped disrupting the forest, more tragopans have been sighted, he said, citing examples from the Rakhundi and Shilt areas.

(Aditya Ansh and Divyam Gautam are independent media writers based in India. adityaansh30@gmail.com)

A car burns during a wildfire in Meda, Portugal. REUTERS

EU scientists say 2025 set to be second or third warmest year

The Hindu Bureau

This year is set to be the world's second or third-warmest on record, potentially surpassed only by 2024's record-breaking heat, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said on December 9.

The data is the latest from C3S following last month's COP30 climate summit, where governments failed to agree on substantial new measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reflecting strained geopolitics as the U.S. rolls back its efforts, and some countries seek to weaken CO2-cutting measures.

This year will also likely round out the first three-year period in which the average global temperature exceeded 1.5°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period, when humans began burning fossil fuels on an industrial scale, C3S said in a monthly bulletin.

"These milestones are not abstract - they reflect the accelerating pace of climate change," said Samantha Burgess, strategic lead for climate at C3S.

Extreme weather continued to hit regions around the globe this year. Typhoon Kalmaegi killed more than 200 people in the Philippines last month. Spain suffered its worst wildfires in three decades due to weather conditions that scientists confirmed were exacerbated by climate change.

The global threshold of 1.5 Celsius is the warming limit that countries pledged to stay below as part of the Paris Agreement in order to avoid the worst consequences of warming

Last year was the planet's hottest on record.

While natural weather patterns mean temperatures fluctuate year to year, scientists have documented a clear warming trend in global temperatures over time, and confirmed that the main cause of this warming is greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels.

The last 10 years have been the 10 warmest years since records began, the World Meteorological Organisation said earlier this year.

The global threshold of 1.5 Celsius is the warming limit that countries pledged to stay below under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement in order to avoid the worst consequences of warming.

The world has not yet technically breached that target, which refers to an average global temperature of 1.5 Celsius over decades. But the U.N. said this year that the 1.5 Celsius goal can no longer realistically be met and urged governments to cut CO2 emissions faster, to limit overshooting the target.

C3S's records go back to 1940, and are cross-checked with global temperature records going back to 1850.

In a separate update ahead of COP30, the World Meteorological Organisation said the period from 2015 to 2025 is also set to rank as the 11 warmest years on instrumental record, with 2023-2025 the three warmest years and 2025 about 1.4°C above the pre-industrial average so far.

Likewise, the UN Environment Programme's Emissions Gap Report 2025 had warned that even if countries implement their national climate plans in full, global temperatures this century would still be headed for around 2.3-2.5°C of warming, while current policies would deliver around 2.8°C.

It also estimated that global emissions would have to drop by half by 2035 to keep the 1.5°C pathway open, at least briefly.

Analysts have also noted an unprecedented 0.4°C rise in global temperature in just two years, suggesting the world may already be edging into the psychologically important post-1.5°C regime

With inputs from agencies.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Birth anniversary of Max Born, quantum theory architect

Prathmesh Kher

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
Max Born made many contributions to quantum theory.
This said, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 1954 for establishing the statistical interpretation of the _____. Fill in the blank with the name of an object central to quantum theory but whose exact nature is still not fully understood.

QUESTION 2
What alternative formulation of quantum mechanics did Born help develop with Werner Heisenberg and Pascual Jordan? This formulation describes physical quantities in arrays of numbers, each of which denotes the likelihood that one quantum state will transition into another.

QUESTION 3
The key idea that underlies the Born-Oppenheimer approximation is that X move much more slowly than electrons. As a result, physicists can treat X as (almost) fixed while solving the electronic Schrödinger equation; without it, calculations become extremely difficult. What is X?

QUESTION 4
In 1915, Max Born published a book titled *Dynakim der Kristallgitter*, which laid the foundations for his work in crystal lattices. Born later expanded this work with the Chinese physicist ___ _____ into the book that became the classic reference in solid-state physics. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5
At which Indian institution did Max Born spend six months in 1935-1936? He'd been invited by the head of the institution. Born also considered taking a permanent position there but couldn't when the institution didn't create a separate chair for him.

Answers to December 9 quiz:
1. Ailment also known as Hansen's disease – **Ans: Leprosy**
2. Condition caused by an unclean instrument cutting the umbilical cord – **Ans: Neonatal tetanus**
3. Infection that roughens the inner surfaces of eyelids – **Ans: Trachoma**
4. Parasitic infection caused by *D. medinensis* – **Ans: Guinea-worm disease**
5. Neglected disease caused by Spirochaetota bacteria – **Ans: Yaws**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Nitin Das | Anmol Agrawal | Vidhyasagar Krishnamoorthy | Nancy Karkada

Visual: Max Born was the maternal grandfather of this celebrated musician and actor. Name her. CREDIT: EVA RINALDI (CC BY-SA)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

HC: Police can't summon rowdy-sheeters orally till framing of legal procedure

Court makes it clear that in case a rowdy-sheeter is accused of any offence then the procedure prescribed under Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita can be invoked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that the police cannot orally summon persons whose names are entered in rowdy and history registers, to stations when they are not accused in any offence, till the State government evolves a procedure as per law for summoning such persons.

However, taking note that there are about 6,500 persons whose names are in the history sheet, the court made it clear that in case a rowdy-sheeter is accused of committing any offence, then the procedure prescribed under Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) can be invoked to secure them for investigation as BNSS empowers the police to summon an accused.

A file photo of the Ulsoor Gate police station. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

Petition by Silent Sunil

Justice R. Nataraj passed the order while partly allowing a petition filed in 2019 by Sunil Kumar alias Silent Sunil, 38, who had questioned the legality of the action of the police in frequently summoning him, making him wait unnecessarily in the police station from morning to evening in the guise of knowing his activities, parading him, along with other persons whose names are in the history sheet, before the media, etc.

Also, the court directed the police to send text message, either through short messaging service (SMS) or WhatsApp to Sunil, whose name is in the history sheet of Subramanya Nagar, Yelahanka New Town, Rajajinagar, and Amruthahalli police stations, to summon him for obtaining any information about his activities.

If the petitioner involves in any crime punishable under any enactment, then the protection granted to him by this order shall automatically vanish, the court clarified.

The court passed the order after the State government admitted that there was no provision either in the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, or the Karnataka Police Manual that prescribes the procedure for summoning a person whose name is entered in the rowdy and history register.

"...whatever might be the consequences, when there is no procedure prescribed in law to summon a rowdy-sheeter, the State cannot justify summoning them orally and detaining them in the police station for long hours, as that would infringe their personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," the Court said.

Taking note of a claim by the police that the petitioner was involved in 24 criminal cases, and his clarification that he was cleared in 22 cases, either through acquittal of quashing of the cases, and that he had reformed now and wanted to lead a dignified life with his family, the court said he should be given an opportunity to reform, notwithstanding his past by saying "every saint has a past and every sinner a future".

Phones, sharp objects found in Central Prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prison Department officials on Tuesday raided the Central Prison and seized 14 mobile phones and 10 sharp objects from the inmates, according to a source in the department.

Following the raid, officials registered a complaint at the Parappana Agrahara police station under the Prisons Act. The complainant stated that 14 mobile phones, nine SIM cards, five chargers, two earphones, and 10 sharp objects were seized.

The raid is part of a drive against banned items possessed by inmates. This is the sixth such operation conducted by prison officials in the past 13 days, according to sources. Six FIRs have so far been filed at the Parappana Agrahara police station in connection with these raids. According to department officials, the raids have, in total, led to the seizure of 67 mobile phones, 14 chargers, 48 SIM cards, 10 earphones, 13 sharp objects, and ₹64,880 in cash.

Alok Kumar elevated to DGP rank, to head Prisons dept. from Dec. 12

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday promoted Alok Kumar, a 1994-batch IPS officer, to the rank of Director- General of Police (DGP) with retrospective effect from September 12, 2025.

The IPS officer has been transferred and posted as DGP of Prisons and Correctional Services.

Mr. Kumar has been serving as the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Training.

Alok Kumar

In a corresponding transfer, B. Dayananda, who had been serving as the Additional Director-General of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services, has been moved to the training wing as ADGP.

The development follows the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) setting aside the departmental enquiry proceedings against Mr. Kumar.

This was in connection with the 2019 case of leaked audio clips of lawfully intercepted phone calls.

Gang attempts jewellery heist; held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Tumakuru police on Wednesday announced the arrest of a six-member gang who had allegedly arrived in Sira taluk to loot jewellery shops.

The accused have been identified as Praveen Kumar, Om Kumar Bishnoi, Dileep, Ravindra Sharan, Dinesh, and Kailash Chowdary, all from Rajasthan. They had reached Tumakuru on the morning of December 4. On the same day, around 9.45 a.m., the gang barged into a jewellery shop, Mahalakshmi Bankers and Jewellers, in Cheluru. The accused allegedly brandished sharp weapons and demanded that the owner hand over gold. However, the owner resisted and screamed for help, alerting shopkeepers nearby. The gang fled the shop in their hatchback car, which had a tampered number plate.

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Registrar

Bizarre twist: Gang robs thief of stolen gold, police nab all five

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an anti-climax of sorts, a gang of five robbed a thief of gold worth ₹1.75 lakh in east Bengaluru's Avalahalli, just minutes after he had stolen the gold from a house. Frustrated over losing the stolen valuables, the thief went on to commit two more house thefts. Ten days later, the police arrested all five accused.

The first accused has been identified as Isayi Raja alias Kunta, 30, a resident of Amruthahalli. The members of the other gang have been identified as Mounesh Rao, Darshan M., Chandan R., and Sunil M., all aged between 20 and 23. The incident occurred on November 22. Raja allegedly noticed that a family in Manduru near Avalahalli had left their house late at night. He entered their house through an ajar window.

"After stealing valuables, the accused went to a nearby graveyard where he had parked his bike. Another gang of four persons noticed him, intercepted him, and robbed him in the name of questioning," an officer investigating the case told *The Hindu*.

On November 24, the family that lost their valuables filed a complaint, following which the police arrested Raja using technical clues from the crime scene and CCTV footage from nearby areas. Investigations revealed that Raja has seven cases registered against him in five different police stations in the city.

Days later, all four members of the second gang were booked for robbery and arrested by the Avalahalli police.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, DEC. 11	
RISE 06:31	SET 17:54
RISE 00:00	SET 12:00
FRIDAY, DEC. 12	
RISE 06:32	SET 17:55
RISE 00:12	SET 12:36
SATURDAY, DEC. 13	
RISE 06:32	SET 17:55
RISE 00:59	SET 13:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	20
Mysuru	29	17
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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'Right-wing activist' booked for assaulting ragpicker

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Self-styled right-wing activist Puneeth Kerehalli has been booked for allegedly assaulting a ragpicker without any provocation.

The incident occurred on December 4 near C.K. Acchukattu in south Bengaluru. The victim, identified as Alam, was working, when Kerehalli allegedly intercepted him and assaulted him, said the police.

An officer from the C.K. Acchukattu police station told *The Hindu* that the victim holds a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) card and has been living in Bengaluru with his wife and two children for several years. He earns his livelihood by ragpicking in areas such as Nayandahalli, Acchukattu, and Banashankari, the officer said. "We have filed an FIR and have summoned the accused, who is yet to give his statement," the officer told *The Hindu*.

A recent release by the Bengaluru police noted that Kerehalli faces 14 cases in the city. The Basavanagudi police, citing his involvement in anti-social activities, booked him under Section 127 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. They had directed him to give an undertaking that he would refrain from anti-social or criminal activities and would not disturb law and order or peace in society. Kerehalli had allegedly refused to comply, following which he was produced before the executive magistrate.

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर, गुड़गाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK –6
PUBLIC NOTICE
[*Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 (2) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016*]

Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1492 Date: 25/11/2025

Reference:
In the matter of striking off or removal of names of ***(60)*** companies in the state of Karnataka under section 248 (2) of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AB9104698	U74999KA2017PTC101302	CAERUS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AB8429891	U14100KA2016PTC093377	FORTUNA SANDS AND AGGREGATES PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AB8997332	U74103KA2024OPC188493	MODEVO CREATIVE (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AB8346226	U45100KA2010PTC053235	SITARA HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AB8440227	U08106KA2024PTC190348	SRIKANTESHWARA INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AB8509011	U51909KA2022PTC168727	BELLEDERMA COSMETIQUE PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AB8836735	U74999KA2017PTC107301	TEJ COURIERS AND LOGISTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AB8976200	U74140KA2007PTC043397	DCSI HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AB9065840	U74995KA2018PTC114601	FARHANS CAREERS LEAGUE PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AB8231480	U85191KA2013PTC069160	VSI HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AB8505982	U63030KA2017PTC100500	RAPIDO TRAVELS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AB7975120	U66190KA2024PTC189299	GANGES INDIA OPPORTUNITIES PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AB7159761	U72900KA2020PTC134764	ROLL ON ROAD PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AB7965602	U63999KA2024PTC194021	SIGNALSIQ TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AB7761345	U71100KA2023PTC182449	SAMTA LEGAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AB7807336	U72900KA2021PTC146531	MANN-YOG HEALTHCARE PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AB7850199	U71100KA2024PTC184114	AGEES ENGINEERS AND PLANNERS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AB7845401	U85110KA1992PTC013186	SCRIPMAN SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AB8269703	U92490KA2021FTC146906	PLAY MAGNUS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AB8090010	U51909KA2021PTC151076	CONCRETE VALLEY INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AB8913069	U72900KA2020PTC138156	KORITO ENTERTAINMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AB8044945	U52609KA2020PTC140122	MYBUILDIFY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AB8158158	U63030KA2021PTC142908	DIVERGENT PROJECT LOGISTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AB8164155	U35105KA2023FTC174890	TOTALENERGIES RENEWABLES OA PROJECTS INDIA 3 PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AB8164460	U35105KA2023FTC175292	TOTALENERGIES RENEWABLES OA PROJECTS INDIA 4 PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AB8164235	U72900KA2018OPC114158	FLAMEBRIK TECHNOLOGY (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AB8164716	U35105KA2023FTC175832	TOTALENERGIES RENEWABLES OA PROJECTS INDIA 5 PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AB8206997	U52609KA2022PTC165643	MOCAL MARKET PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AB8282556	U21001KA2024PTC192717	MOLECULES HEALTH SCIENCES PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AB8220186	U74999KA2018PTC109648	ECOMATRICES RECOMMERCE PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AB8279032	U55209KA2018PTC113439	VW FOOD PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AB8298076	U72502KA2021PTC148770	SLICENDICE ANALYTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AB8888577	U55101KA2021PTC144621	SIX PACK PACKAGING PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AB8423400	U72200KA2019PTC121394	REYBHAV TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AB8468790	U72900KA2023OPC170216	DHRUVATAARE TECHNOLOGY (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AB8430875	U47912KA2024PTC189405	GREYAT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AB8496784	U92412KA2009PTC049706	NEW LIFE SPORTS & FITNESS ACADEMY PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AB8519319	U36911KA2004PTC034091	INTER-JEWELS CHEMM PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AB8885863	U63999KA2025PTC202984	INVERTUA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AB7235270	U72200KA2011PTC059191	CREDII TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AB8591861	U86201KA2023PTC179514	GERAS HEALTH PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AB8868278	U32111KA2024PTC189798	VRUKSH JEWELS PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AB8613191	U74999KA2017PTC106904	CKM HOTEL ROYAL PALACE PRIVATE LIMITED
44	AB8651806	U56300KA2025PTC200012	SUGARME VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
45	AB8651390	U72900KA2019OPC127968	MAGE VENTURES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
46	AB8639537	U72900KA2022PTC162438	SHIPHYPER PRIVATE LIMITED
47	AB8616515	U62099KA2023PTC182319	CAPSIQ SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
48	AB8655785	U01130KA2010FTC056174	DOLE FRUITS & VEGETABLES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
49	AB8774659	U78300KA2024OPC185246	APEXITCONNECT (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
50	AB8677425	U28199KA2024PTC186479	NMACH TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
51	AB8707470	U15400KA2021PTC154530	HEALTHMORPH PRIVATE LIMITED
52	AB8711816	U72900KA2023PTC170181	XPERIO AI LAB PRIVATE LIMITED
53	AB8798576	U24232KA2020PTC135017	STERIBROOKS PENEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
54	AB8778227	U74999KA2018PTC114056	PROLETARIAT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
55	AB8865255	U74999KA2019PTC126923	TELETWEET MARKETIX PRIVATE LIMITED
56	AB8782895	U47721KA2024PTC189851	ROCHEMED LIFE SCIENCES PRIVATE LIMITED
57	AB8811836	U72200KA2014PTC077032	APPLIEDMACS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
58	AB8850320	U45202KA2011PTC058026	SINAI TECH PARK PRIVATE LIMITED
59	AB8856025	U62099KA2024FTC183913	PRISTINE INNOVATION & DESIGN CENTRE PRIVATE LIMITED
60	AB8807483	U74900KA2016PTC087101	METALKARMA CONSTRUCTION INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.
3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.
4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

CBC 07123/11/0483/2526

Raunak Agrawal
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Govt. employees who received benefits from Ladki Bahin scheme

8,000 The Maharashtra assembly saw sharp exchanges over alleged corruption in the Mukhyamantri Mazi Ladki Bahin Yojana, after the government admitted that some 8,000 employees received aid despite being ineligible. PTI

Losses suffered by Delhi trade, tourism due to IndiGo crisis

1,000 In ₹ crore. Delhi's trade, industry, tourism and exhibition sectors have suffered an estimated loss of ₹1,000 crore due to widespread flight cancellations by IndiGo, a statement by the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) claimed. PTI

Housing units approved by Israel in 3 West Bank settlements

764 The units will be spread out between Hashmonaim, and Givat Zeev and Beitar Illit near Jerusalem. Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who opposes the creation of a Palestinian state, said that since 2022, some 51,370 housing units have been approved. REUTERS

Number of persons injured in the recent earthquake in Japan

51 The number of people injured in a 7.5-magnitude earthquake in Japan rose to 51 on Wednesday, authorities said, after warning an even bigger tremor was possible in the coming days. The quake shook buildings, tore apart roads, smashed windows and triggered tsunami waves. AFP

Flights to be added by SpiceJet to meet winter demand

100 Domestic carrier SpiceJet said that it is planning to introduce up to 100 additional daily flights during the winter schedule. The statement came a day after the government announced a 10% cut in IndiGo's winter schedule. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is India's 8.2% growth rate sustainable?

India's GDP surged 8.2% to ₹48.63 lakh crore, indicating strong economic momentum. However, the IMF's 'Grade C' rating warns of structural weaknesses that could threaten long-term growth amidst global volatility and internal challenges

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan
Geetaali Malhotra

India's latest GDP figures position the Indian economy to be producing at a significantly higher level than last year, emphasised by the ₹48.63 lakh crore output projected to be realised in a single quarter.

The general state of the economy

An 8.2% increase of GDP indicates that this rise is part of a genuine momentum rather than just being a post-pandemic bounce. The 9.1% growth in manufacturing indicates that industrial demand has increased and factories are operating closer to capacity. Services, now 60% of India's GDP, is growing at 9.2%, with financial services at 10.2%, which reflects strong credit activity, higher transactions, and sustained urban demand.

The increase in real Gross Value Added (GVA) numbers from ₹82.88 lakh crore to ₹89.41 lakh crore further indicates that agriculture, industry and services are experiencing genuine rise in added value and not just rise in prices.

The real numbers held up because the nominal GDP increased by 8.8%, demonstrating that inflation remained under check. Moreover, Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) rising by 7.9% show that households are spending more. Further, the growth of agriculture by 3.5%, supported by fuller reservoirs and better horticulture output, points to a small but real improvement in rural incomes.

Inflation, which had been high for much of the previous years, finally eased and even slipped below target toward the end of 2024-25. Banks experienced significant credit growth and were in a position to lend with a clean balance sheet, maintaining capital buffers which are far in excess of regulatory requirements.

On the budget front, the Centre stuck to the path of consolidation with the help of strong GST and direct tax collections and successfully managed to keep the spending mix relatively high-quality. The external sector remained stable with a small current account deficit, healthy services exports and diversified foreign exchange reserves to weather global volatility.

And so, if one were to just look at these figures, it would appear that the Indian economy is moving forward even as much of the world slows down and is eclipsed in greater economic uncertainty.

The IMF's rating

Notwithstanding this, every headline has its shadow. Here, the shadow arrived in the form of a shocker when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that India had been assigned 'Grade C' in its recent assessment on its national income accounting. There are four grades in total: A, B, C, and D.

Some of the multiple shortcomings highlighted by the IMF team which require careful consideration and review include – a) the use of an outdated base year (2011/12); b) the use of wholesale price indices as data sources for deflators due to the lack of producer price indices; c) the excessive use of single deflation, which may introduce cyclical biases; d) sizeable discrepancies between production and expenditure approaches that may indicate the need to enhance the coverage of the expenditure approach data and the informal sector; e) lack of seasonally adjusted data and room for improvement in other statistical techniques used in the quarterly national accounts compilation; and f) a lack of consolidated data on States and local bodies after 2019.

This raises a critical question: how can a nation possibly be underrated when it's racing at 8% while the world limps at 3%? But the truth lives in the footnotes of our own documents.

The RBI's Annual Report (2024-25) recognises that the economy has performed well, but it also quietly lays out the structural issues that still drag down India's credibility. Countries with discretionary exercises in projecting the good alone in numbers have two narratives: the one they tell the world and the one they whisper under their own breath. India's 8.2% is the story its government wants tell the world. The IMF's C is the whisper.

An economy appearing to grow fast is not the same thing as an economy growing well. What the IMF is really saying is that India's institutional bones are not yet as strong as its muscle.

Mining output was hit by an unusually long monsoon, while electricity generation slowed because of a milder-than-usual winter that reduced heating and peak-load demand. Although these might seem like fleeting weather phenomena, they significantly undermined the industrial base of the year. The unevenness is evident even in this strong quarter. Electricity and utilities grew only 4.4%, and mining barely moved at 0.04%. These are backbone sectors and subsequently their sluggishness signals that recovery is not evenly spread across the real economy. According to nominal GVA, the primary sector accounted for 14%, the secondary sector for 26%, and the tertiary sector for 60% in Q2.

These proportions look normal for a service-led economy, but India's case is different because its employment structure does not match its output structure: too many Indians still work in agriculture and low-wage services, sectors that contribute little to productivity gains.

Structural vulnerabilities

The RBI cautions that India's export trajectory will continue to be impacted by growing trade protectionism, tariff uncertainty, and geopolitical tensions in key markets.

Services exports and remittances help cushion the current account, but they cannot substitute for a diversified and scaled-up goods export engine – one that India still lacks.

Another contradiction shows up in the financial markets.

The rupee looked stable from a distance, but underneath, it was constantly being pushed down by a strong U.S. dollar and the usual swings in foreign capital.

When one realises that the IMF is grading the architecture that supports India's growth rather than the country's growth rate, its Grade C starts to make sense. A country can grow at 8% and still have structural vulnerabilities.

It can post healthy GVA numbers and still have weak institutional capacity at the State level, low labour productivity, and an export profile mismatched with global demand. GDP captures the pace of economic activity; it does not capture the quality of governance that sustains it. The true conflict is that, despite India's robust short-term economic momentum, its long-term framework is still being developed.

Even with the strong Q2 performance, broad-sector analysis shows agriculture growing only 3.5%, utilities at 4.4%, and mining barely above zero, sectors that collectively employ millions but contribute less and less to value creation.

This does not diminish the achievement of 8.2% growth. However, it makes the narrative more difficult. The IMF's grade serves as a subtle reminder to see past the quarterly glow and recognise the unresolved issues in economic structure, finance, and governance. India is leading the way. What it needs now is the depth.

Deepanshu Mohan is professor and dean, O.P. Jindal Global University and Director, Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES). He is a visiting professor at LSE and a visiting fellow at University of Oxford. Geetaali Malhotra is a research analyst with CNES.

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

An 8.2% increase of GDP indicates that this rise is part of a genuine momentum rather than just being a post-pandemic bounce.

The RBI's Annual Report (2024-25) recognises that the economy has performed well, but it also quietly lays out the structural issues that still drag down India's credibility.

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Study flags high burden of colorectal cancer among Indians below 45

According to ICMR, it accounts for 7% to 8% of all cancer cases in India; while it has traditionally been seen as a disease of older adults, the study notes that this trend is rapidly shifting in the country

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A new study published in the Indian Journal of Surgical Oncology has raised concerns over the rising burden of colorectal cancer among younger Indians. Researchers reported that almost one in three patients at the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology was below 45 years of age at the time of diagnosis.

The study, titled "Colorectal Cancer Trends in Younger Versus Older Adults: An Analysis from a Tertiary Cancer Centre," analysed data from 964 patients treated at Kidwai between 2019 and 2024.

Almost one in three patients at the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology was below 45 at the time of diagnosis. FILE PHOTO

Speaking to *The Hindu*, corresponding author of the study, Pavan T. Sugoor, associate professor of Surgical Oncology at Kidwai, said young-onset colorectal cancer is no longer rare. "Young-onset colorectal cancer is often detected late and tends to be biologically more aggressive. This makes management challenging," the doctor said.

Aggressive in young

Of the 964 patients examined, 279 (28.8%) were under 45 years - an unusually high proportion compared to global averages. While colorectal cancer has traditionally been seen as a disease of older adults, the study noted that this trend is rapidly shifting in India.

The study found that younger patients were significantly more likely to present with aggressive histological subtypes.

"These subtypes are known to have poorer outcomes and lower five-year survival rates," the doctor explained. He further said that younger adults showed higher rates of advanced disease at diagnosis and greater likelihood of metastatic presentation.

National trend

According to ICMR, colorectal cancer accounts for 7% to 8% of all cancer cases in India, with over 70,000 new cases annually. Bengaluru, too, has seen a steady uptick. The study showed that the average age of diagnosis is now 50, nearly a decade younger than the Western average of 60.

"Since 2018, 30% of Kidwai's colorectal cancer cases have been diagnosed in patients 45 years or younger, a majority presenting in Stage 3 or Stage 4. Our findings underline an urgent need to increase clinical awareness and consider earlier screening strategies for younger populations," he said.

Rectal cancers formed the bulk of cases in both age groups, accounting for two-thirds (66.7%) of all tumours. The study also found no significant gender differences in tumour characteristics.

While the exact cause of this rise remains unclear, Dr. Sugoor pointed to several possible contributors - changing dietary patterns influenced by Western lifestyles, improved diagnostic capabilities, and possible genetic or hereditary predisposition in a subset of young patients.

Previous studies have shown that India has a smaller overall colorectal cancer burden compared with Western countries, but a higher proportion of cases occurring in younger adults, he said.

Globally, several countries have already lowered the recommended age for routine colorectal cancer screening - from 50 to 45 years - following rising incidence among younger adults.

"The study's findings bolster the case for adopting similar measures in India," the doctor said.

The study concluded that younger patients in India not only present more often with aggressive tumour biology but also at more advanced stages, impacting treatment options and survival.

"Even young and otherwise healthy individuals should not ignore red flags such as a change in bowel habits - whether increased or reduced frequency - bleeding per rectum, persistent abdominal pain, or unintentional weight loss," Dr. Sugoor added.

Doctors save 'micro pre-term' baby after 147-day NICU stay

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In one of the rarest neonatal survival outcomes, a 24-week micro pre-term baby born weighing just 480 grams has been discharged after a prolonged and complex 147-day stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Babies born before 26 weeks or under 500 gm are among the most fragile newborns, requiring advanced, continuous medical support to survive.

The infant, smaller than an adult's palm at birth, was delivered prematurely after the mother developed severe hypertension and diabetes, which led to critically reduced blood flow to the foetus.

sThe obstetric team administered antenatal steroids and magnesium sulphate before delivery to support lung and brain maturity.

The baby's weight dropped to 440 gm during the first week. Despite the significant risks, the newborn displayed steady resilience.

Doctors at Rainbow Children's Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, where the baby was treated, said the child was discharged after a 147-day NICU stay with a weight of 2.3 kg and normal brain and eye development – an outcome considered exceptional for such an extremely premature infant. "Micro preemies require not just medical excellence but continuous vigilance, compassionate nursing and strong family involvement," said Saravanan R., consultant, Neonatology and Paediatrics, at the hospital.

"Preventing infections, providing developmental care and ensuring optimal nutrition through exclusive breast milk are central to achieving healthy neurodevelopment," he added.

According to doctors, the recovery was significantly aided by the family-centric Neonatal Care Model, which allows parents to play an active role in caregiving.

Water adalat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board will hold a water adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. to address a range of public issues.

These include billing, delays in supply, sanitary connections, and converting domestic connections to non-domestic ones.

Department of School Education (PRE-UNIVERSITY)
18TH CROSS, MALLESWARAM, BENGALURU-560012
e-mail: commissioner.pue@gmail.com Phone: 080-23562033
No: DPUE-EGOV0TEND/1/2025(1947150) Date: 10.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through GEM Portal Only)

Director, Department of School Education (Pre- University) is inviting e-tender in GEM Portal for providing Manpower Services for Day to Day Office Work in the Office of Directorate, Department of School Education (Pre-University) having adequate resources and experience.
Explanation: **Providing Manpower Services for Day to Day Office Work.** Tender Number: **GEM/2025/B/6975517.** Amount in **Rs. 1,50,00,000/-.** The tender details are availablein the website **https://gem.gov.in** the date for the commencement of e-tender is **08.12.2025 and Last date for submission: 22.12.2025 at 5:00 PM.** For more details contact **GEM Portal** or Office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Joint Director (Admin), Department of School Education (Pre-University)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/166/2025
Dated : 05-12-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Bagalkot - Kudachi New BG Line Project : Proposed construction of staff quarters, TM rest house, Labour and Merchant rooms, Platforms, subway, FOB, PF Shelter, Drainage, Extension of RUB, laying and linking of one loop line and other miscellaneous works at Sulikeri, Khajjidoni and Lokapur Stations. (Composite Work) **(Tender Ref. No. BGK-KUD-49)**	Rs. 52,90,72,341/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 30-12-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/717/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221
E-Open Tender Notice No:- S/RWP/E/ 2025-26/15, Dated : 09.12.2025, Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender",** through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in,** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **SN. :** 1. **Tender No. :** 02255172A, **Short Description of item :** Upgradation of existing CNC controller and servo drive controller., **Quantity :** 01 Set, **Date of Tender Closing/Opening :** 27.12.2025 at 14:00 Hrs., **1.** Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in. 2.** The prospective firms / bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation** with respect to the above tender.
For PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/87

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, ANANDAPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA.
E- mail id: cceabp@gmail.com
E-procurement Notice No. CCEABP-17 of 2025-26

E-Procurement Officer	Name of the Work	Bid id No.	Tender Cost in Lakhs (Appx)	Bid Security (Online)	Cost of Bid Document (Online)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-1)
Chief Construction Engineer, A.B.Project, Salapada	**Repair and rehabilitation of approach road of Anandapur Barrage connecting to N.H.-20, Anandapur Barrage and S.H.-53.**	ABP-ABD-01/17 of 2025-26	690.00	6,90,000/-	10,000/-	A & Spl. Class	Six Calendar months	12.12.25 11.00 AM	18.12.25 5.00 PM	19.12.25 11.30 AM

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in / www.dowrodisha.gov.in
Addendum / corrigendum / cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only
Chief Construction Engineer, Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada.
A-1103 OIPR-32180/11/0022/2526

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. SBC-GSU-ENGG-2025-04
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Cantonment - Whitefield Quadrupling - Balance works of **(1)** Re-construction of Bridge No.835B FOB with Gangway-1 at ch:344876.000 & Gangway-2 at ch:344795.000 duly dismantling the existing FOB at ch:344886.750 in Baiyyappanahalli Yard. **(2).** Construction of FOB with Gangway at ch: 344487 in Baiyyappanahalli yard. **(3).** Dismantling and Reconstruction of platform shelter at Baiyyappanahalli yard.	Rs. 23,61,03,961.14

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 12-12-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, Bengaluru
PUB/727/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Notice is hereby given to public that our client **Kiran Kumar SK** Lost the original sale deed bearing doc no. 1184/2013-2014 Book-1, Stored in CD no. LAND216 and 14/06/2004 Sale Deed Document No. 11059/2004-05, Book I, stored in CD No. BLND12, at SRO, Bangalore, GPA executed **(1)** Mr. Patalaiah, son of late Mr. Muninanjaiah, **(2)** Mr. Narayanaswamy son of Mr. Patalaiah, in favour of Mrs. Yashodamma, wife of Mr S H Ganga Jogi Gowda, with respect to the Property bearing Site No. 24, formed in Survey No. 29, measuring East to West 25 feet and North to South 50 feet, situated at Shivapura Village, Nelagadaranahalli Dhakle, Yeshawathapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. at Bangalore sub register office on 05/07/2013 & 13/02/1992 and our client is intending to mortgage the schedule property and avail loan from Avanse Financial Services Ltd.

If any person or persons or Financial Institution or Bank has any claim over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within **seven days** from today, along with relevant documents failing which it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any such claim and any claim received thereafter will not bind my client and would not be considered by my client.

SCHEDULE

All that all the piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No. 24,** Assessment No. 29, measuring East to West **25 feet** and North to South **50 feet,** formed in land bearing Survey No. 29, situated at **Shivapura Village, Nelagadaranahalli Dhakle, Yeshawathapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** and bounded on:
East By : Property bearing Site No. 25, West By : Property bearing Site no. 23, North By : Road, South By : Property bearing Site No. 18.

Shivakumar, Advocate
M/s. Rashi Legal,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.B2-1250/51, Manu Teja Towers, A.Dasarahalli, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore 560 079. M-9538178060
E-Mail: rashilegalblr@gmail.com

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Housing Board invite tenders from the eligible Pre qualified contractor & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through KPP portal for below mentioned work.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Work Indent & IFT No.	Amount put to tender (in Rs.)	Last date of submission
1.	Construction of Sahakara Soudha at Kolar Town, Kolar Taluk & District.	Tender Reference No. KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 668 & IFT No. 116/2025-26, Date: 09.12.2025	2,25,27,410/-	09.01.2026 Upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned Office Address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
Telephone No.: 080-22273511 / 080-22100077. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
DIPR/CP/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KHB**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	Central	BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2740/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025 (Reserved for CAT 2(A))	₹ 37,03,918/- / ₹ 37,100/-	22.12.2025 upto 5:00 pm	23.12.2025 after 5:30 pm
2.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2742/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025 (Reserved for CAT 2(A))	₹ 32,77,249/- / ₹ 32,800/-		
3.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2764/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 27,63,473/- / ₹ 55,300/-		
4.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2758/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 24,34,153/- / ₹ 50,000/-		
5.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2744/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 29,35,117/- / ₹ 58,750/-		
6.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2746/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	₹ 44,55,287/- / ₹ 44,600/-		
7.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2748/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025 (Reserved for CAT 2(A))	₹ 42,80,000/- / ₹ 42,800/-		
8.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2750/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 35,76,190/- / ₹ 71,550/-		
9.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2752/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 45,67,190/- / ₹ 91,350/-		
10.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2754/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 32,67,735/- / ₹ 65,400/-		
11.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2756/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	₹ 41,14,126/- / ₹ 41,150/-		
12.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2760/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 23,93,924/- / ₹ 50,000/-		
13.		BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2762/ 2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 41,06,166/- / ₹ 82,200/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central Division)

Office of the Chief Engineer (PROJECT), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

14.	Central Stores	BWSSB/EE(Cstr)/AEE/ASO/ JE/STR/708/2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 84,75,358/- / ₹ 1,69,600/-	18.12.2025 before 4:00 pm	20.12.2025 at 12:00 noon
15.		BWSSB/EE(Cstr)/AEE/ASO/ JE/STR/710/2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 98,38,258/- / ₹ 1,96,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central Stores)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. **DIPR/CP/4361/CCL/2025-26**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)
BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs,)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
1	Buildings	BWSSB/EE/(Building)/PB/2989/ 2025-26, Date: 02.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 10,96,759/- / Rs. 13,709/-	25.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	26.12.2025 after 4:00 p.m.
2		BWSSB/EE/(Building)/PB/2991/ 2025-26, Date: 02.12.2025 (Reserved for Category-II(A))	Rs. 10,96,753/- / Rs. 13,709/-		
3		BWSSB/EE/(Building)/PB/2993/ 2025-26, Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 10,96,757/- / Rs. 27.419/-		
4		BWSSB/EE/(Building)/PB/2995/ 2025-26, Date: 02.12.2025 (Reserved for Category-I)	Rs. 18,05,710/- / Rs. 22,572/-		
5		BWSSB/EE/(Building)/PB/2997/ 2025-26, Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 26,38,350/- / Rs. 52,767/-		
6		BWSSB/EE/(Building)/PB/2999/ 2025-26, Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 73,39,043/- / Rs. 1,54,781/-		
7		BWSSB/EE/(Building)/PB/3001/ 2025-26, Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 71,69,526/- / Rs.1,43,391/-		
8		BWSSB/EE/(Building)/PB/3003/ 2025-26, Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 74,60,916/- / Rs.1,49,204/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Buildings).

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

9	South East -2	BWSSB/EE/(SE-2)/TO/PB/3692/ 2025-26, Date: 08.12.2025	Rs. 25,25,304/- / Rs. 63,140/-	29.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	31.12.2025 after 4:30 p.m.
10		BWSSB/EE/(SE-2)/TO/PB/3692/ 2025-26, Date: 08.12.2025	Rs. 47,06,341/- / Rs. 1,17,660/-		
11		BWSSB/EE/(SE-2)/TO/PB/3692/ 2025-26, Date: 08.12.2025	Rs. 28,38,885/- / Rs. 70,980/-		
12		BWSSB/EE/(SE-2)/TO/PB/3694/ 2025-26, Date: 08.12.2025 (Reserved for Category-II(A))	Rs. 43,01,885/- / Rs. 53,780/-		
13		BWSSB/EE/(SE-2)/TO/PB/3694/ 2025-26, Date: 08.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 47,43,407/- / Rs. 59,230/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East -2).

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief , 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

14	UFW-2	BWSSB/EE/(UFW)-2/PB/720/ 2025-26, Date: 08.12.2025	Rs. 72,15,041/- / Rs. 1,45,000/-	17.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	18.12.2025 after 4:05 p.m.
15		BWSSB/EE/(UFW)-2/PB/722/ 2025-26, Date: 08.12.2025	Rs. 68,11,830/- / Rs. 1,36,500/-		
16		BWSSB/EE/(UFW)-2/PB/724/ 2025-26, Date: 08.12.2025	Rs. 68,14,212/- / Rs. 1,36,500/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (UFW)-2.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/RA/4340/2025-26

TAMIL NADU GREEN ENERGY CORPORATION LIMITED
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Tender Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
HE – 2516	CE / HYDRO	E-Tender for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Five numbers (Gate No.8,9,10,11&12) new vertical lift type fixed Wheel barrage gates (15mtrs X 9mtrs) with counter weight & hoisting mechanism along with Dismantling of old barrage gate with counter weight & hoisting mechanism at Lower Mettur Barrage Power House-4/ Uratchikottai, Erode Generation Circle as per the technical specifications.

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening / viewing and downloading of E-Tenders please visit websites from **www.tenders.tn.gov.in & www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.**
DIPR/6564/Tender/2025

INTERVIEW NOTICE
Applications are invited for following post on Short Term basis as per schedule given below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Last Date of submission of application	Place of interview
1.	Young Professional-I **(ICAR-NISST, RS, Bengaluru)**	04	19.12.2025	ICAR-NISST, RS, Bengaluru

For details, please visit our website https://seedicar.org.in/
Sd/- Administration Officer

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 03 December, 2025
S.O. 5576(E) - In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railways (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby notifies the project, as "Special Railway Project" mentioned in the table below, in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Name of Villages	Taluk	District
1	Quadrupling between Hosapete - Ballari Station (65 Km)	Muddhapura, Ananthashayanagudi, Sankalapura, Kariganuru, Ingalagi, Papinaykanahalli, Gundlavaddhageri, Byluvaddhageri, Dharma sagara, Kotiginahalu, Gadiganuru, Bhuvanahalli, Gonalu	Hosapete	Vijayanagara
		Vadrahalli,	Kudligi	
		Kurekuppe, Thoranagallu, Dharoji, Thimmalapura	Sondur	Ballari
		Kuduthini, Veniveerapura, Kolagallu, Ballari	Ballari	

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727
For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in
Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer, Construction - III, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/722/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

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GETTY IMAGES

Satellites, science, and the new fight for spectrum in space

As the demand for satellite communication escalates, experts warn that without effective regulation and coordination, the rapid expansion of satellite constellations could lead to disruptions and congestion, and further the digital divide

Shrawani Shagun

There's at least one space race already underway to get to the moon. There's also another one: to claim radio frequencies and orbital slots in the limited space around the earth. The main participants of this race are companies launching large fleets of satellites working together, called megaconstellations. These megaconstellations are already revolutionising Internet access around the world – but they're also sparking a fierce and fraught competition for the invisible highways across which they send and receive information.

In physics, 'spectrum' refers to energy levels. Satellite communications uses the word with a similar meaning: the spectrum is the range of radio frequencies available for wireless data transmission. Radio frequencies are to outer space activities as oxygen is to life on the earth's surface: essential. Enabling data transmission between satellites and ground stations through electromagnetic spectrum bands allocated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) assigns the frequencies of electromagnetic radiation that different satellites and ground stations can use to talk to each other. The most sought after frequencies are Ku-band (12-18 GHz) and Ka-band (26-40 GHz) for high-speed satellite internet and L-band (1-2 GHz) for GPS. Each satellite must coordinate its spectrum use to avoid interfering with signals in another channel. But spectrum alone is insufficient: satellites also need to occupy certain physical orbital positions so that their broadcasts reach antennae on the ground.

Megaconstellation boom

This scramble for spectrum and orbital slots has led to unprecedented satellite deployment. SpaceX's Starlink, launched in 2019, now operates over 8,000 satellites with plans for up to 42,000. OneWeb has 648 satellites, Amazon's Project Kuiper plans 3,200, and China's GuoWang has aimed for 13,000.

The value of the satellite megaconstellation market is thus projected to explode from $4.27 billion in 2024 to $27.31 billion by 2032, a 25.5% annual growth rate driven by demand for high-speed Internet in remote regions and dropping launch costs. The competition also transcends commercial markets; to countries outside the west, megaconstellations constitute a strategic push for technological sovereignty in space communications.

ITU governance

The ITU is a specialised agency of the United Nations with 194 member states. It serves as the sole global coordinator for satellite spectrum and orbital slots, operating under the principle that these are "limited natural resources that must be used rationally, efficiently and economically".

The ITU's first-come, first-served coordination system requires satellite operators to file frequency applications and coordinate with potentially affected administrations before receiving international recognition. This creates a competitive advantage for well-capitalised entities from spacefaring nations because they can file applications early and maintain the legal and technical expertise to navigate the lengthy coordination process. Late entrants risk finding the most valuable spectrum-orbital combinations already claimed.

The World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 introduced some reforms. Its Resolution 8 in particular requires operators to notify deviations between planned and actual orbital deployments, preventing companies from claiming one orbit while deploying elsewhere. The Conference also formalised expectations that if a company proposes to launch a megaconstellation, it must deploy 10% of it within two years, 50% within five years, and complete deployment in seven years.

The ITU's framework was designed for the 1960s-1990s satellite era and today faces mounting pressure. Its 2025-2029 operational plan identifies "spectrum and satellite orbits" as the top priority, acknowledging that traditional coordination mechanisms designed for hundreds of satellites are struggling to manage thousands of annual deployments. The body processes approximately 80% of satellite-related agenda items, a sign that satellite constellations dominate international spectrum management.

Digital divide

It's not possible to simply write off megaconstellations because they are one solution to bridging a connectivity disparity among the world's countries. For instance, on the Global Connectivity Index (a figure that combines the number of internet users, connected devices, natural-disaster vulnerability, and GDP), Switzerland leads with a score of 34.41 while India sits at 8.59, a nearly fourfold gap. Worldwide, 2.6 billion people remained offline at the start of 2025, with the most vulnerable populations in South Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Satellite operators know that satellites in low-earth orbit (150-2,000 km above sea level) promise lower latency and higher bandwidth than traditional geostationary satellites (35,786 km above sea level). A latency of 20-40 ms, compared to 600+ ma for geostationary satellites, makes real-time applications like telemedicine and online education more feasible in remote regions, especially where ground-based infrastructure is out of the question.

The thorn here is affordability. Starlink's user terminal, which receives the satellites' transmissions, costs around $600 (₹53,168 on November 17) with monthly subscription fees, which is unaffordable for rural populations without subsidies or tiered pricing models. The ITU's 'Connecting Humanity Action Blueprint' has also estimated that closing the digital divide by 2030 will require $2.6-2.8 trillion in investments, underscoring the scale of the challenge.

For emerging spacefaring nations, this creates dual imperatives: securing spectrum access through the ITU's coordination system while ensuring connectivity translates to genuine affordability.

India exemplifies this situation. The GSAT-N2 satellite of the Indian Space Research Organisation has a throughput of 48 Gbps and covers remote regions, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Northeast, while Bharti Enterprises' 39% stake in OneWeb positions India within the global low-earth orbit ecosystem. However, the Telecom Regulatory Authority has recommended administrative spectrum allocation rather than auctions, recognising that spectrum for non-geostationary satellites can be shared when properly coordinated. This framework is designed to accelerate deployment while maintaining affordability.

Yet the fundamental tension remains: without regulatory mandates for universal service obligations or government subsidies, satellite broadband risks becoming premium infrastructure serving urban enterprises and wealthy households rather than bridging urban-rural divides.

The path onward

Thus the urgency of reform is clear. Current trajectories indicate operators around the world will launch more than 50,000 satellites by 2030. The Earth orbit hosts around 40,000 tracked objects, including over 27,000 pieces of debris larger than 10 cm.

The ITU adopted a resolution called ITU-R 74 in 2023 calling for the sustainable use of spectrum and orbital resources, including measures to mitigate space debris. Notably, it requires satellites to be removed from orbit within 25 years of completing their missions to prevent defunct spacecraft from accumulating in orbit. Current compliance rates remain low, however, with at best 70% of satellite operators actually deorbiting their machines in this timeframe. This compliance gap means debris continues to accumulate faster than it is removed, threatening the long-term sustainability of orbital space.

As megaconstellations enter orbit, the overall success depends on governance frameworks that balance commercial innovation with scientific research, equitable access, and of course orbital sustainability. Without binding international standards and equitable allocation, the fight for spectrum could become a war, risking creating an orbital environment that is eventually too congested for anyone to use. For emerging space nations like India, shaping these frameworks now, rather than accepting rules written by other governments, will determine whether space becomes a shared resource or a domain of persistent inequality.

Shrawani Shagun is a researcher focusing on environmental sustainability and space governance.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On December 11, 1946, the UNICEF was formed to provide emergency relief to children and mothers in the aftermath of the Second World War. A quiz on the UN body

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
A 1949 drawing from one of its young beneficiaries, meant as a thank-you note for supplying milk to her village, became the organisation's first greeting card. What did the painting depict?

QUESTION 2
In 1953, the world body underwent a significant transformation when it became a permanent part of the United Nations system. At this time, certain words were dropped from the organisation's official name, though the acronym UNICEF was retained. Which two words were removed?

QUESTION 3
UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "promotion of brotherhood among nations" in which year?

QUESTION 4
In the 1970s, UNICEF partnered with the Government of India and the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop the world's most widely used hand pump in response to severe droughts affecting rural India. What was it called?

QUESTION 5
In the early 1980s, UNICEF 'took blame' when the U.S. announced plans to withdraw from another UN body. What negative impact did this create, and, which other organisation was involved?

QUESTION 6
In 1989, UN members adopted this resolution which would become the most universally approved human rights treaty for the protection of children. Name it.

QUESTION 7
This UNICEF-proposed humanitarian concept proposed safe spaces for child welfare within conflict zones. Name this concept.

Visual question:
This woman is one of UNICEF's earliest Goodwill Ambassadors and a Hollywood actress. Who is she? AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This field was not among the initial five fields which were considered for a Nobel. **Ans: Economics**
2. Name the institution that established the prize in Economics. **Ans: Bank of Sweden**
3. The maximum number of people who can share a Nobel. **Ans: 3**
4. Name the youngest and oldest Nobel laureates. **Ans: Malala Yusufzai and John B. Goodenough**
5. The first Indian to win a Nobel. **Ans: Rabindranath Tagore**
Visual: Name this writer who declined a Nobel awarded for literature. **Ans: Jean Paul Sartre**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Gaurav Deshmukh| Ambarin Aslam| Aaradhya Yadav| Deepak Sudhir

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference between 'dinner' and 'supper'? (G. V. Vamsi, Korukonda, Vizianagaram Dist.)
Most dictionaries define "dinner" as the main meal of the day. So if you have your main meal at 1-00 in the afternoon, then you have your dinner at 1-00! If, on the other hand, you have your main meal at 8-00 in the evening, then you have your dinner at 8-00.

Supper, on the other hand, is defined as the last meal you have in the day. It is usually taken in the evening. You can have a heavy or a light supper. When the members of a family gather around the table in the evening and have a meal, it's usually called supper. But when guests are included, the meal becomes a dinner. A dinner tends to be a more formal occasion and is usually given in honour of someone. For example, you would invite your boss/ teacher for dinner and not supper. If you have your dinner in the afternoon, then the meal you have in the evening is supper. If you take your dinner in the evening, then the midday meal is called lunch. We Indians do not maintain this distinction between dinner and supper as some native speakers do. In fact, not many of us here use the word "supper." For most of us, "dinner" is something that we have in the evening – it doesn't matter if it's the main meal of the day or not. The terms that are commonly used in India are breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner and tiffin.

What is a coffee-table book? (B. Jambulingam, Tamil University, Thanjavur)
A coffee-table book is usually an expensive book containing a lot of pictures/ photographs. It is relatively large in size and is designed to be looked at rather than read. Such books are usually placed on coffee tables where the visitors to a house can see and admire them. There was a time when people said that children were meant to be seen, not heard! Well, most coffee-table books are meant to be seen, not read.

Is there a difference in meaning between "convenor" and "convener"? (N. Munirathnam, Mint Street, Chennai)
There is no difference in meaning between "convenor" and "convener," they both mean the same thing. A convenor/ convener is someone who organises a meeting or a conference. For example, Laxman was made the convenor/convener of the meeting. Mohan said that he didn't want to be the convener/convenor. The 'o' in the first syllable 'con' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'about' and 'amount.' The 'e' in the second syllable is like the 'ee' in words like 'feel,' 'peel' and 'heel.' The vowel in the last syllable ('o' or 'e', depending upon how you spell the word) sounds like the 'a' in 'about' and 'China.'

The main stress is on the second syllable 've'.

Published in The Hindu on December 15, 1998.

Word of the day

Paltry:
not worth considering; contemptibly small in amount

Synonyms: negligible, trifling, measly

Usage: *They live on a paltry wages.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/paltryrpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpɒltɹi/, /ˈpɔːltɹi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

‘Karnataka is India’s services export powerhouse, Bengaluru main engine’

‘But the urban grind — endless commutes, gridlocked traffic, strained utilities, and crumbling civic backbone — inflate delivery costs and drag down decision-making speed’

INTERVIEW

Abhay Sinha

K.C. Deepika

Bengaluru emerged as the leader in India’s service exports for 2024-25, contributing $78.64 billion, nearly 35% of the country’s total services exports. Service exports are services that Indian firms deliver to customers in other countries and for which India gets paid in foreign currency. Abhay Sinha, Director General, Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC), the apex trade body under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, says while India’s services exports are led by IT and IT enabled services, engineering, consulting, AVGC-XR and healthcare are growing quickly.

Excerpts from an interview:

Abhay Sinha, Director General, Services Export Promotion Council
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Where do Bengaluru and Karnataka stand today in terms of service exports?

Karnataka is India’s services-exports powerhouse, with Bengaluru as the main engine. India’s services exports soared to a record $387.54 billion in FY25, a significant leap from the provisional April-February 2024-25 figure of $354.90 billion. As we usher into FY26, cumulative services exports for April-August 2025 hit $165.22 billion, reflecting a robust 10.57% growth, with September adding another $30.82 billion to bring the April-September tally to approximately $196.04 billion.

As per VTPC – Karnataka’s export facilitation arm, the State contributed 41% of India’s services exports in FY2021-22, valued at $254.4 billion, a baseline that highlights the State’s enduring outsized share. Recent estimates peg Karnataka’s services exports at over $150 billion in FY25, aligning with its approximately 40% national contribution in recent years. Karnataka’s economy is profoundly services-driven. The Economic Survey of Karnataka records services at 68.1% of GSVA (2024-25), with Bengaluru Urban as the single largest contributor to GSDP, accentuating why services exports remain heavily concentrated in and around the city, even as initiatives extend to Tier-2 and Tier-3 hubs.

Karnataka’s talent reservoirs in IT-ITES, ER&D, and consulting confer an inherent competitive advantage, while Global Capability Centres (GCCs) have evolved from cost-savers to innovation hubs, with Karnataka leading India – hosting over 500 GCCs and 35% of the workforce, centered in Bengaluru. Pharma giants like AstraZeneca and Eli Lilly drive AI-driven R&D. The ‘Beyond Bengaluru’ initiative fosters growth in Tier-2 cities.

Which sectors primarily contribute to these numbers?

Three key sectors drive Karnataka’s services exports. IT and IT-enabled services (ITES) dominate nationally, and Karnataka’s contributions focus on software development, application and cloud management, cybersecurity, data engineering, and platform site reliability engineering (SRE). Demand originates primarily from the US and EU, with increasing traction in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region and Asia-Pacific (APAC). Bengaluru’s competitive edge stems from its abundant senior engineering talent, robust hyperscale ecosystems, and accelerated adoption of AI-driven delivery models.

Global Capability Centres (GCCs) represent a second major sector, evolving under the Karnataka GCC Policy 2024 to emphasize high-value functions, such as AI/machine learning, product and platform engineering, cybersecurity, finance operations, and R&D. GCCs have shifted from back-office support to strategic roles, including product strategy, risk analytics, design systems, and security operations for global headquarters.

The third sector encompasses engineering, consulting, and engineering R&D (ER&D) services, with rapid growth in areas like energy transition, mobility, digital infrastructure, and smart cities.

What are the emerging sectors from Bengaluru and Karnataka?

Karnataka is igniting India’s innovation frontier, with Bengaluru at its epicentre, unleashing a torrent of emerging sectors poised to dominate global markets. Spearheading this surge are GCC 2.0/3.0 ecosystems, turbocharged by AI platform operations, cutting-edge analytics, product engineering, and ironclad risk and cybersecurity.

In tandem, AVGC-XR – animation, VFX, gaming, and extended reality – is exploding under the AVGC-XR Policy 3.0 (2024-29), empowering Bengaluru’s studios to conquer international arenas with exported digital masterpieces and real-time 3D wizardry.

Amplifying the momentum: skyrocketing exports in healthcare and tele-diagnostics, engineering R&D consulting, and digital public goods deployment. These juggernauts propel India’s services trade tsunami, which shattered records at $341.06 billion in FY2023-24, cementing Karnataka as the unstoppable engine of tomorrow’s economy.

What challenges do companies here face?

Bengaluru’s booming exporters are battling a trifecta of hurdles that might inhibit the growth projection.

First, the urban grind bites hard: endless commutes, gridlocked traffic, strained utilities, and crumbling civic backbone inflate delivery costs and drag down decision-making speed. Meanwhile, the scramble for premium office space – scarce and sky-high – crushes margins for MSMEs and stalls ambitious expansions, especially as IT giants and GCCs gobble up the best spots.

Second, global demand’s wild rollercoaster: While India’s services exports hit a staggering $341.06 billion in FY2023-24 – provisionally soaring past $383 billion in FY2024-25 – client budget cuts and interest-rate turbulence can slam the brakes on deals. Survival mantra? Forge ironclad buffers and diversify across markets to weather the storms.

Third, the compliance labyrinth: juggling international data-protection mandates, sector-specific regs in finance and health, India’s evolving data laws, and the RBI’s grueling Annual Survey on Computer Software & ITES Exports. For lean outfits without robust legal or finance teams, it’s a paperwork nightmare that devours time and resources

Egg prices force teachers to shell out their money for midday meals

To prevent malnutrition in schoolchildren, eggs, bananas, and groundnut chikkis are being provided to students in government and aided schools from classes 1 to 10 as additional nutrients along with midday meal

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Skyrocketing prices of eggs are not just burning a hole in the pockets of regular consumers, but also teachers, who are paying from their own pockets to ensure its presence in midday meals. On Wednesday, the per unit cost of one egg in the wholesale market was ₹6.75, but crossed ₹8 in retail.

To prevent malnutrition in schoolchildren, eggs, bananas, and groundnut chikkis are being provided to students in government and aided schools from classes 1 to 10 as additional nutrients along with midday meal.

With the help of the Azim Premji Foundation for Development (APF), steps were taken to provide eggs for six days a week from September, 2024.

Bananas and chikki were being provided to students who did not consume eggs. The government has recently stopped distributing chikkis owing to poor quality. Distribution of eggs and bananas has continued and the attendance of students in schools has also increased.

On Wednesday, the per unit cost of one egg in the wholesale market was ₹6.75, but crossed ₹8 in retail.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Currently, the State government is providing ₹6 per egg after adding transportation costs, peeling charges, and other costs. However, the price of each egg in the market has exceeded ₹8.

Since the government is not bearing this additional cost, teachers have to pay an additional amount for eggs. In some schools, only bananas are being distributed to students instead of eggs.

“The price of eggs has been increasing. All the children in our school eat eggs. So, despite the high price, we have to distribute eggs to the children. I spent a total of ₹2,800 of my own money last month on distributing eggs. The department will not refund this amount,” a government urdu school teacher from Bengaluru South district said.

Expensive eggs?

“Egg production decreases during the rainy and the winter season. This is the main reason for the increase in prices,” said V. Nagaraj, distributor of eggs from Bengaluru.

“As production is low in the winter, we do not get eggs to purchase from poultry farms. In addition, the demand for eggs increases in December owing to Christmas. Supplying eggs according to demand is also a challenge for us. So, the increase in prices is inevitable,” he added.

“We are purchasing eggs at retail prices. A request has been made to the officials of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) to revise the price of eggs.

They said that they will bring our request to the attention of the government. But every month, we have to pay the additional amount for eggs from our own pockets,” said the headmaster of a government higher primary school in Bengaluru.

Department officials were not available for comments.

Two held for cheating man of ₹47L with fake Ayurvedic treatment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jnanabharathi police have arrested two people for allegedly cheating a man of ₹47 lakh by promising “Ayurvedic medicine” to treat his sexual issues.

The accused have been identified as Vijay Pradhan Chitodiya, 42, and Manoj Singh Chitodiya, 29, both residents of Miraj in Maharashtra. A Bengaluru court has sent both of them to judicial custody, according to the police.

The victim, a resident of Whitefield, told the police that he had been married for three years and was experiencing sexual issues for which he was seeking treatment. He noticed a tent set up on the footpath in southwest Bengaluru’s Jnanabharathi and approached them.

A police officer investigating the case said Vijay and Manoj persuaded the victim to buy what they termed “Ayurvedic medicine” that they claimed would resolve his health issues. The accused quoted ₹2 lakh per gram and ultimately took ₹47 lakh from the victim.

The accused quoted ₹2 lakh per gram of the medicine and took ₹47 lakh from the victim. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

After consuming the medicine, the victim began to experience health complications, prompting him to file a police complaint. The police registered an FIR, launched an investigation, and arrested the accused from Mahbubnagar and Cyberabad in Telangana.

Further investigation revealed that the accused had set up similar tents in multiple locations across Karnataka and Telangana, where they allegedly sold low-quality medicines.

Following this, the Jnanabharathi police conducted searches at several of the accused’s tents and seized 17 different types of “medicines” worth ₹19.5 lakh.

Police intensify anti-drug drive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In three separate operations, the Bengaluru City Police have arrested six drug peddlers and seized drugs worth ₹5.2 crore. The operations were carried out by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) and the Sanjaynagar police as part of an intensified drive ahead of New Year celebrations.

The accused have been identified as Mohammad Mustafa, Karthik S., Suraj Kumar Singh, and Anumodh K.. Two foreign nationals were also arrested: Obiejesi Chigozie Davi, and Sani Sadiq, both residing in Marenahalli near Bagalur in northeast Bengaluru.

The police seized 1.1 kg of MDMA crystals and 3.5 kg of hydroganja during operations conducted in Bagalur, Ashoknagar, and Sanjaynagar. Mustafa was arrested in Ashoknagar, while the remaining three were arrested in Sanjaynagar. The two foreign nationals, who arrived in India on student visas, were apprehended in Bagalur, according to the police.

Investigation has revealed that Chigozie and Sadiq had initially arrived in Uttar Pradesh on student visas. They later moved to Bengaluru.

‘Art and healing’-themed calendar launched on Human Rights Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aweksha, a Bengaluru-based organisation supporting survivors of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, launched its fifth consecutive annual desktop calendar titled “Art is Voice” on Wednesday, Human Rights Day.

The 2026 calendar features Mandala art accompanied by feminist quotes, acknowledging the healing journeys of women who have experienced violence. This marks the fifth year of Aweksha’s calendar release. The calendars generate essential funding for emergency services and support programmes and also help raise awareness about critical issues affecting women and other oppressed people.

Law students along with members of the Centre For Protection of Human Rights and Secularism staging a protest on Human Rights Day 2025, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The event brought together media representatives, artists, trade union leaders, survivors, activists and members from civil society organisations to celebrate art as a powerful medium of expression, healing, and advocacy.

A communique from the organisation stated that the Mandala art form acknowledges the non-linear paths of healing and the continuum seen in the resilience of women.

Around 60 people participated in the event, which also featured a folk song performance by one of the survivors associated with Aweksha.

IIHR introduces low-cost mango wash to clean black stains from fruit skin

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Ahead of the mango season, the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has introduced a low-cost technology that removes black stains many mangoes develop on their skin, marks that make good fruits look spoiled and fetch lower prices in the market.

The solution, which is called Arka Mango Wash, costs about ₹1 per kg of fruit and can be used even by small farmers with simple equipment.

Every year, mango growers across the country face the problem of fruits turning black on the surface, even when the pulp inside remains completely healthy. “These stains are usually caused by sooty blotch, a fungal complex that grows on the waxy layer of the fruit peel. The fungus does not penetrate the fruit; instead, it sits like a thin, olive-green black film that spreads over the skin. It is often confused with another kind of stain called sooty mould, which forms sugary excretions left by sap-sucking insects such as hoppers, where one needs to focus on sucking pest management,” G. Sangeetha, principal scientist (Plant Pathology), Division of Crop Protection at ICAR-IIHR, said.

ICAR–IIHR has introduced a low-cost mango wash that clears the black marks many farmers find on otherwise perfect mangoes.

Dr. Sangeetha developed the technology, alongside H.S. Singh.

IIHR developed Arka Mango Wash, a post-harvest dip treatment that removes up to 99% of the blackening caused by sooty blotch.

How it works

The solution uses a combination of two FSSAI-approved compounds, blended in precise proportions, making it safe for use on fruits. Farmers preparing the wash must mix 250 ml of Solution A (4%) and 9 ml of Solution B (85%) in 10 litres of potable water and adjust the pH to 6.5. Mangoes are dipped for 10-15 minutes, then rinsed twice with clean water and left to dry in the shade before ripening, Dr. Sangeetha told *The Hindu*.

Dr. Sangeetha emphasised that potable (non-hard) water is essential because hard water reduces the wash’s effectiveness. The same batch of solution can be reused three to four times, making the process affordable.

Dr. Sangeetha shared an example from Tamil Nadu that showed its impact on the ground. R. Sadesh Kumar, an organic mango grower from Andikuzhi village in Kallakurichi district, saw large portions of his harvest develop black patches soon after picking.

He then remembered seeing a demonstration of Arka Mango Wash at an IIHR horticulture fair. Carrying samples of his stained fruits and even farm water for testing, he travelled to the institute in Bengaluru. There, scientists used the mango wash on his samples, restoring their natural shine, she added.

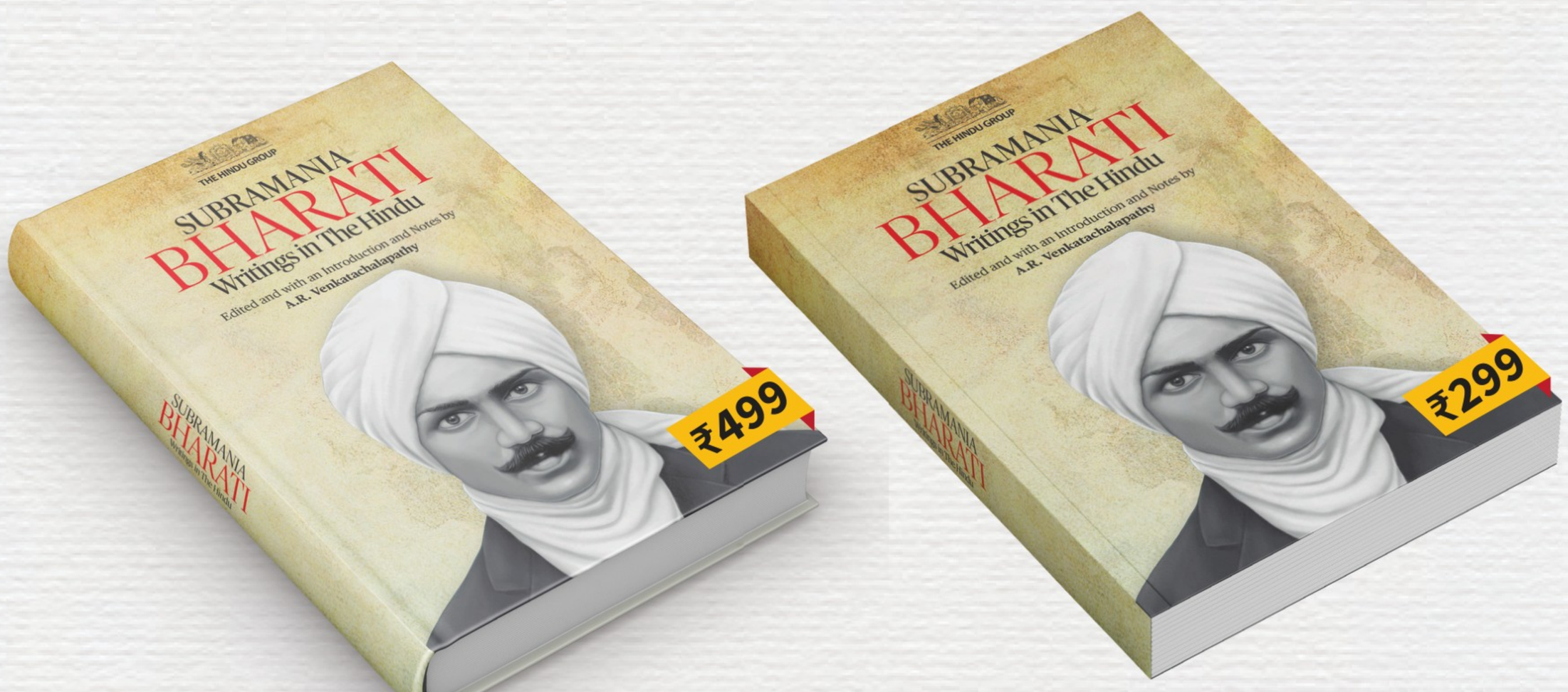
THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

SUBRAMANIA BHARATI

Writings in The Hindu

Subramania Bharati was more than the foremost poet of Tamil Nadu. He was also a sharp commentator on the social and political issues of his time. This book brings together all of his writings in *The Hindu* during his exile in Pondicherry.



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Cabinet may discuss and clear Bill on internal quota today

While a meeting with Dalit Ministers was held on Wednesday, the Bill will be discussed in the Cabinet on Thursday

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BELAGAVI

The State government, which is under pressure from the Dalit left (Madigas) group to bring a legislation to implement internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SCs), is expected to discuss and approve The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, at the Cabinet meeting on Thursday before moving it in the legislature during this Winter session.

While a meeting with Dalit Ministers was held on Wednesday evening, the Bill that is being fine-tuned will be discussed in the Cabinet on Thursday, a top government source said.

"There has been no stay on the 17 % reservation. The court has said that the appointments hinges on its final orders," said the source.

Consequential seniority

The Karnataka Extension of Consequential Seniority to Government Servants Promoted on the Basis of Reservation (To the Posts in the Civil Services of the State) Act, will be appropriately amended to provide internal reservation in promotions, the source said, adding that the process of recruitment for over 3,500 posts notified through over 40 notifications would continue subject to the final orders. The source also indicated that the government would appeal if there is any adverse order. "However, we are hopeful of a favourable order in court," he added.

A file photo of members of the Scheduled Castes Right Communities Internal Reservation Protection Committee staging a protest against the H.N.Nagamohan Das report in Kalaburagi.

After the one-man commission headed by H.N. Nagmohan Das submitted its report to the government recommending internal reservation matrix, the government notified 6% each to Dalit Left (Madigas) and Dalit Right (Holeyas) communities, and 5% to Lambani, Bhovi, Korama and Koracha along with nomadic castes. About 50 microscopic nomadic communities to whom the commission recommended 1% reservation lost out eventually. Following this, Dalit left groups are demanding a legislation to make the internal reservation stronger.

Cases in court

Currently, the appointments to the government posts are in a limbo as four petitions regarding reservation are pending before the Karnataka High Court.

While two public interest litigation petitions have been filed against the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and Appointments or Posts in the Services Under the State) Act, 2022, that enabled increasing reservation to 101 SCs from 15 % to 17% and from 3% to 7% to STs, in another case the government has gone on an appeal in the High Court after the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal stuck down the enhanced reservation.

Return to 15%?

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

With fresh notifications for appointments and those for which process has been started now stuck amid cases in the High Court, the government is mulling returning to 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes, and reduce the internal reservation quota accordingly. Sources said that it is one of the ways out of the current situation since the 2022 Act faces legal challenge.

Following the Act, the reservation increased from 50% to 56%, since the quota from SCs increased from 15% to 17% and for Scheduled Tribes from 3% to 7%. The increase was based on recommendation by retired Judge H.N. Nagmohan Das. The total reservation for OBCs is 32%. Karnataka is yet to implement 10% EWS reservation.

Another source said that Dalit Ministers are opposed to the idea of reducing the quota to start recruitment, and discussions are on. On the other hand, to convince the Alemari community to withdraw the case in High Court, the government is offering a special package, sources said.

Box

Land conversion will be simplified soon, says Krishna Byre Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The rules that simplify land conversion and define the procedures to be followed by revenue courts will be notified soon, said Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda in the Legislative Council in Belagavi on Wednesday.

Why the delay

Answering a question on the delay in notifying the rules following the amendment to the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, the Minister said that there was delay as it involved many issues. The government was framing the rules for the first time in an elaborate manner since the Act came into effect in 1964, he pointed out. The draft rules were notified on September 17, and probably within a month, the final notification would be issued.

Elaborating on the rules, the Minister said that the purpose of the amendment was to simplify land conversion. With the amendment, there would be no requirement of land conversion if the plan of the construction was in tune with the master-plan.

Krishna Byre Gowda

"If the activity proposed is in accordance with the green, yellow and red zones, there is no need of seeking land conversion, as per the new rules. The applicant can directly approach the planning authority to get the plan approved. Similarly, in case the proposed construction is outside the planned area, the DC will have 30 days time to dispose of the application. On the 30th day, the land conversion certificate will be generated automatically, unless the officer rejects the application," he stated.

The Minister said that the rules would stop the role of mediators, who had brought bad name to the officers and the government. The rules had been framed such that those setting up small-scale industries within two acres of land need not seek land conversion. Similarly, those taking up projects related to renewable energy would not require land conversion.

IN THE LEGISLATURE

Court procedures

Further, the Minister explained that the rules would also define the procedures of the revenue courts. "All these years, the act allowed the revenue officials to hold courts. However, there were no rules to define the procedures. There were instances where officials issued orders exceeding their powers. Now, we have framed rules and defined the procedures, including a summary enquiry and a formal enquiry," he said.

The draft rules, which run into 29 pages, would be finalised soon and the final notification would be issued within a month, he added.

BJP demands White Paper on status of implementation of promises for NK

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Asking the Congress government not to shed crocodile tears over the problems of North Karnataka, the BJP has demanded a White Paper on assurances by the government for the development of the region in the last two legislature sessions in Belagavi and the status regarding their implementation, including details on financial allocation.

Participating in a debate in the Assembly on issues related to the development of North Karnataka, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok recalled that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had made a slew of promises in the last two legislature sessions in Belagavi. "He should now tell people of North Karnataka how many promises have been fulfilled through a White Paper," he said.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok speaking in the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Wednesday.

Though the Chief Minister had directed Ministers concerned to hold fortnightly reviews of implementation of the promises and projects announced for North Karnataka, most of them had not even held a single review meeting, he alleged, and demanded that they be sacked from the Cabinet.

Describing the State government's commitment to increasing the Almatti reservoir's height from 519.6 to 524.26 metres by acquiring 73,603 acres as crucial to the development of North Karnataka, Mr. Ashok said the government had run out of funds to take up this project. The Finance Department had reportedly proposed to raise funds by either stopping the guarantee schemes or effecting a 20% cut in the budgets of all departments, he claimed.

Education status

"In 2024-25, in Kalyana Karnataka, 53 degree colleges and five Morarji Desai residential schools have reported zero results. The Chief Minister said he would fill up 21,000 teacher posts, but that hasn't happened. In this region, 50,244 children are malnourished. While the per capita income in Bengaluru is ₹7 lakh, in Kalaburagi it is ₹1.43 lakh," Mr. Ashok said, and wondered where the funds allocated for the region went.

He said that several areas in North Karnataka were reeling under floods when southern Karnataka was celebrating Dasara. Instead of trying to understand the seriousness by travelling by road, the Chief Minister had taken up an aerial survey of the affected areas then, he said.

Distress sales

Later in the day, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra spoke about the distress of farmers and the government's indifference. He said that though a MSP of ₹2,400 per quintal for maize has been fixed, farmers were selling their produce at ₹1,600 to ₹1,700 per quintal.

Expelled BJP member Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal took objection to the Chair permitting only members from South Karnataka to speak on North Karnataka issues.

'Eating idli and vada will not help resolve leadership crisis'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Ashok says that claims on chief ministerial post lowered the dignity of the post

The leadership tussle within the Congress government figured in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday with Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok raising the issue and stating that political uncertainty will affect the State's development.

Raising the issue during the debate on development of North Karnataka, Mr. Ashok referred to the controversial episode of a ruling Congress MLC referring to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar as "Chief Minister" in a social media post.

He said there was confusion about the post as some MLAs from the Congress were trying to project Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar as the next Chief Minister, while others supporting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah were countering them.

Multiple voices

"A Congress MLA says he wants Mr. Shivakumar to become Chief Minister. Another Congress MLA says the party high command should reward Mr. Shivakumar by paying his 'wage' for the hard work. Yet another Congress MLA has countered this by wondering if 'wage' had been paid to Home Minister G. Parameshwara, indicating that he too is in the Chief Ministerial race," he said. He said claims and counter-claims on Chief Ministerial post being made on the streets lowered the dignity of the chief ministerial post. Ridiculing the breakfast parleys held by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister to send a unity message, Mr. Ashok remarked, "Eating idli and vada will not help resolve the leadership crisis. Instead, you resolve the issue through discussions."

Five CMs during BJP

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge launched a counterattack at Mr. Ashok by wondering if the BJP that saw five Chief Ministers in two terms wants to preach about political uncertainty to others.

"You never allowed any of your own Chief Ministers to complete full term and still want to tell us about leadership. Does it not reflect poorly on your party and indicate that your erstwhile regime lacked leadership and the state suffered because of it?" he asked.

'Traditional varsities finding it difficult to pay pensions'

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The increase in the number of new universities in recent years has impacted the internal revenue of old universities, said M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, in the Legislative Council in Belagavi on Wednesday.

Answering member Talwar Sabanna's question on the financial condition of Gulbarga University during Zero Hour, the Minister said that in recent years, many new universities were set up without considering the financial implications on the old ones.

Huge financial needs

Mysore University requires ₹115 crore annually to clear pensions.

Similarly, Dharwad University requires ₹140 crore for pensions. "After the new universities were set up, the number of colleges affiliated to the old universities came down, bringing down the internal resources," the Minister said.

Higher Education Minister M.C.Sudhakar has said that Mysore University requires ₹115 crore annually to clear pensions. FILE PHOTO

A Cabinet sub-committee, headed by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, had been constituted to study the financial position of State universities and make recommendations. The committee had discussed the issue with the Finance Department officers and the university officials.

The committee would submit its report to the Cabinet soon.

"Before the next Budget, the State government will take steps to strengthen the universities," the Minister promised.

Problem with sound system

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

While it has become common of late to adjourn Houses of the legislature for some time to let tempers cool down whenever there is pandemonium, the Assembly had to be adjourned for a few minutes on Wednesday as microphones stopped working owing to a technical glitch.

Members started complaining that they were not able to hear the ongoing debate in the Assembly. Though technical personnel tried to resolve the issue, the problem persisted.

Opposition members accused the government of trying to "silence" the voice of North Karnataka as the debate on the region was about to begin then.

As the members repeatedly complained, Speaker U.T. Khader had to adjourn the House till the sound system was fixed.

HC adjourns till January 20 hearing on petitions on menstrual leave

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday adjourned till January 20, 2026, the hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the legality of the State government's November 20, 2025, notification mandating registered establishments to grant one-day leave per month for women employees, aged between 18 and 52, during their menstrual cycle.

Written statement

Justice Jyoti M. adjourned hearing after the State government filed its written statement of objections to the challenges made in the petitions on the power of the State to impose grant of menstrual leave on the petitioner-establishments through a notification in the absence of any provision in the existing laws to introduce such leave. The court asked the advocate for the petitioners to file response to the government's statement.

The court on Tuesday morning initially stayed the November 20 notification after preliminary hearing of the petitions filed by Bangalore Hotels' Association and Avirata AFL Connectivity Systems Ltd, Bengaluru.

However, the court recalled the interim order of stay after the State Advocate-General K. Shashi Kiran Shetty appeared in the afternoon and requested for hearing before passing interim order.

The petitioners have contended that menstrual leave cannot be introduced without amending the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948, the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, and the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961.

Government's justifications

However, the government has contended that the notification was issued exercising the State's executive power under Article 162 of the Constitution and the General Clauses Act, and hence, there was no need for amending these laws to mandate establishments, registered under these enactments, to grant the menstrual leave.

The policy of menstrual leave was formulated on the recommendation of an expert committee as a beneficial legislation and such policies do not require a specific Act.

Apex court

Pointing out that the Supreme Court last year left it to the Central and the State governments to frame policies for menstrual leave, it has been highlighted in the State government's statement that several countries like Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Zambia, Vietnam, and Spain, etc., have had menstrual leave policies from as early as 1948.

THE HINDU GROUP

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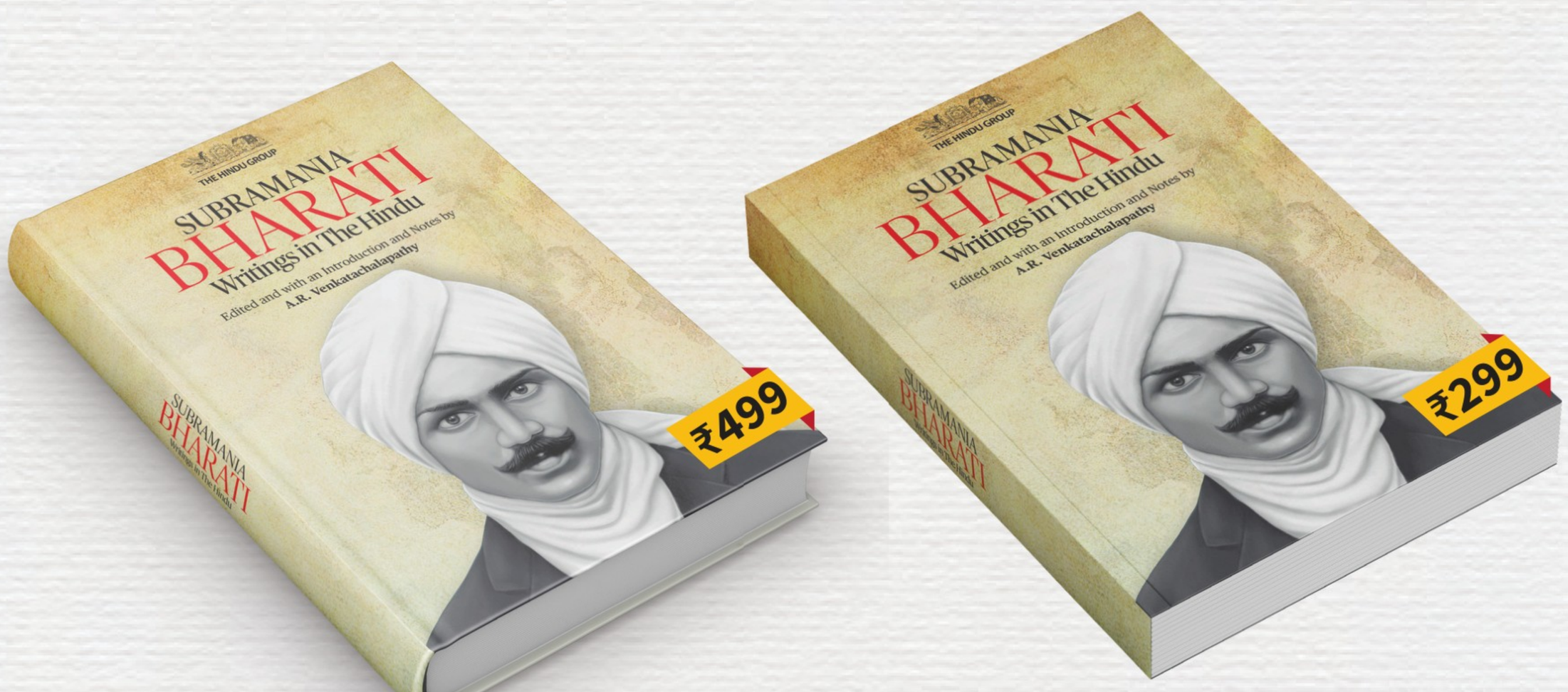

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TTD mired in ₹54-cr. 'scam' involving fake silk shawls

G.P. Shukla
TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), already mired in a series of controversies, has been hit by yet another storm – this time over an alleged massive scam involving the supply of substandard *angavastrams* (shawls) traditionally presented to VIPs visiting the shrine of Lord Venkateswara.

The silk cloth supplied between 2015 and 2025 was allegedly in gross violation of tender specifications. Preliminary findings suggest that inferior shawls were passed off as pure silk, indicating a deliberate dilution of quality and possible manipulation within the procurement process.

The total amount involved in the alleged scam is estimated at ₹54.95 crore.

Advocates' body president flags 'letter' on rape verdict

Alleged anonymous letter, dated Dec. 2, predicts the verdict scheduled for Dec. 8; the president of Kerala HC advocates' body cites 'potential breach of confidentiality' in the actor rape-abduction case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court Advocates' Association (KHCAA) president has sent a letter to the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court seeking a probe into the contents of an alleged anonymous letter dated December 2, citing "potential breach of confidentiality" regarding Monday's order by the Ernakulam Principal Sessions Court acquitting actor Dileep, along with two others, in the 2017 abduction and rape case of an actor in Kochi.

The alleged letter, written in Malayalam, had mentioned how the "upcoming verdict scheduled for December 8" would "exclude" actor Dileep who was arraigned as the eighth accused, the seventh accused Charlie Thomas, and also the ninth accused Sanilkumar.

Following the verdict on December 8, the survivor's advocate has made allegations of cyberbullying and intimidation. K.K. MUSTAFAH

It [the anonymous letter] alleged that the judge who pronounced the verdict was indulging in such "unjust acts" due to the "patronage" of three High Court judges, said Yeshwanth Shenoy, president of the association, in his letter addressed to the Chief Justice.

Meanwhile, the Kerala HC committee of the All India Lawyers' Union (AILU) has sent a letter to the KHCAA secretary seeking action against the (association's) president for forwarding a 'defamatory and unverified letter' to the Chief Justice without the knowledge of the secretary or committee members. "This is a deliberate and unauthorised misuse of the office of the president and an intentional attempt to tarnish the image of the judiciary," said C.M. Nazar, secretary, AILU's Kerala HC committee.

Advocate Mini T.B., who represented the survivor in the case, has alleged cyberbullying and intimidation following the verdict.

Ms. Mini said the intention of those attacking her was to defame her since she had worked tirelessly to ensure justice for the survivor. "I won't be shaken with all that. Kerala society doesn't belong to criminals," she wrote.

Dharmasthala case: Court to decide on SIT's chargesheet on Dec. 26

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A Belthangady court has posted to December 26, 2025, decision on taking cognisance of the chargesheet filed by Special Investigation Team (SIT) against Chinnaiah, activists Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, Girish Mattennavar, T. Jayanth and Vittala Gowda, and Sujatha Bhat in the Dharmasthala mass burial case.

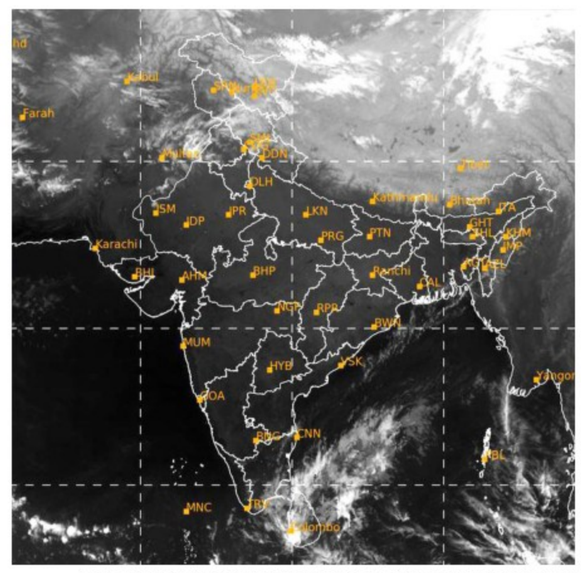
On December 9, Prosecutor Divyaraj Hegde completed his submission before Senior Civil Judge and JMFC, Belthangady, T.H. Vijayendra to substantiate findings of the SIT report. The submission was made as per requirement of proDHAvisions under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

The SIT filed the 3,900-page report against Chinnaiah, complainant in the case and who was arrested for perjury later, and five others for offences under various sections of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita.

The SIT has found that Chinnaiah filed a false complaint about burial of bodies in Dharmasthala village between 1994 and 2014.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Dense fog likely at isolated pockets over Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.3	12.9	Kozhikode	—	34.0	24.1
Ahmedabad	—	31.6	13.8	Kurnool	—	31.6	16.1
Aizawl	—	25.3	10.1	Lucknow	—	25.5	9.4
Allahabad	—	27.4	8.6	Madurai	—	30.4	22.3
Bengaluru	—	28.8	17.5	Mangaluru	—	32.8	21.9
Bhopal	—	26.4	6.8	Mumbai	—	34.1	16.7
Bhubaneswar	—	27.8	13.0	Mysuru	—	29.0	18.0
Chandigarh	—	25.4	8.7	New Delhi	—	25.2	10.0
Chennai	—	30.1	22.9	Patna	—	25.6	12.6
Coimbatore	—	31.2	22.5	Port Blair	—	30.3	26.1
Dehradun	—	23.9	7.6	Puducherry	—	28.6	23.0
Gangtok	—	18.0	7.8	Pune	—	30.9	13.6
Goa	—	33.8	19.4	Raipur	—	29.1	12.2
Guwahati	—	26.2	12.5	Ranchi	—	24.1	8.2
Hubballi	—	29.0	13.0	Shillong	—	19.4	7.0
Hyderabad	—	29.5	13.2	Shimla	—	21.0	9.8
Imphal	—	23.7	10.1	Srinagar	—	12.0	-1.9
Jaipur	—	27.5	10.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.4	24.2
Kochi	—	31.8	25.4	Tiruchi	—	29.3	23.4
Kohima	—	17.8	7.6	Vijayawada	—	29.6	17.6
Kolkata	—	26.5	16.2	Visakhapatnam	—	28.9	19.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.53	..97	40	... 163	...167	
Bengaluru	...8	..32	44	 96	...116	
Chennai	...9	1	52	... 211	...124	
Delhi	...5	..72	66	... 288	...369	
Hyderabad	.22	..15	22	... 108	...112	
Kolkata	...9	107	57	... 327	...248	
Lucknow	...3	..35	28	... 177	...260	
Mumbai	...9	..57	10	... 147	...143	
Pune	.13	..70	75	... 226	...202	
Visakhapatnam	.26	..98	31	... 227	...199	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Haldia, West Bengal recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 327 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INDIA bloc had complained against T.N. judge in Aug.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Four months before the Thirupparankundram row, INDIA bloc MPs wrote separately to President Droupadi Murmu and then Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai about the conduct of Madras High Court judge, Justice G.R. Swaminathan, accusing him of favouring advocates from the Brahmin community and those associated with "right wing ideologies".

The identical letters were dated August 11, four months before the Opposition sought a motion in the Parliament to remove Justice Swaminathan, a judge on the Madurai Bench of the High Court. These letters said Justice Swaminathan's conduct amounted to "proved misbehaviour and gross misconduct", affecting the impartiality, transparency and the secular functioning of the judiciary.

The MPs said the pattern of the judge's conduct showed a "caste-based preference", contributing to a perception of exclusivity and caste alignment in judicial functioning.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಪಿ–4, 10ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ,
3ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಸರಸ್ವತಿಪುರಂ, ಮೈಸೂರು–560009 ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0821–2543552
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: kwbmysdiv@gmail.com

ಪತ್ರ ಸಂ: ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಜಮಂ/ಕಾಅ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ತಾಸ/ಸಅ–1/2425/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09.12.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ: Jai-Hi Amrut ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಂಜನಗೂಡು ನಗರದ ಗೋಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹತ್ತಿರವಿರುವ 8 ಎಂ.ಎಲ್.ಡಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಮಲಿನ ನೀರು ಶುದ್ಧೀಕರಣ ಘಟಕದಿಂದ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದ ನೀರನ್ನು ಚಿನ್ನದಗುಡಿ ಹುಂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಕೃಷಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಿಗೆ ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು 25 ಹೆಚ್.ಪಿ / ಅವಶ್ಯಕ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಸಬ್‌ಮರ್ಸಿಬಲ್ ಪಂಪ್‌ಸೆಟ್ ಅನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಿ, ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ತಿಕರಣಗೊಳಿಸಿ & ಚಾಲನೆಗೊಳಿಸುವುದು. 115 ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ / 150 ಹೆಚ್.ಪಿ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಸಾಫ್ಟ್ ಸ್ಟಾರ್ಟರ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಿ. ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ & ಚಾಲನೆಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಗೂಡ್ಲು ನದಿಯ ಹತ್ತಿರವಿರುವ ವೆಟ್‌ವೆಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿರುವ ಪ್ಯಾನಲ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ರಿಪೇರಿ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಮತ್ತು 60.5 ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಪವರ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಮ್ ಅನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ ಚಾಲನೆಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ರೂ.60.97.062.00 (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **KUWSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT398/CALL-3** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕ.ನ.ನೀ.ಸ ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/1345/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-I-16/2025-26

1. The Chief Engineer (Roads-I), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : **Road works**
3. No. of work : **4 Nos.**
4. Tender Paper Cost : **Rs.10,000.00**
5. Class of Contractor : **'A' Class / Special Class / Super Class**
6. Available of bid document in the website : **From 10.00 A.M. of 12.12.2025 to 5.30 PM of 29.12.2025**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.30.12.2025 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer (Roads-I), Odisha.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-815: OIPR-34001/11/0011/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
Phone-0674-2540742 Email- se_ccrw@yahoo.co.in
No. 5360 / Date: 29.11.2025

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works - T.C.N. No.Tender-Online-C.C.-43 of 2025

1.	Name of the Work	:	Road works under MMSY-Disaster Resilient Road (DRR)
2.	Total No. of Packages	:	6 Nos. of Road Works under MMSY-Disaster Resilient Road (DRR) for the year 2025-26
3.	Estimated Cost of the Package	:	Varies from Rs.416.67 lakhs to Rs.708.33 lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	:	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 lakhs up to Rs. 3.00 Crores.		B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore up to Rs. 20.00 Crores		A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crores up to Rs.50.00 Crores		Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of Completion	:	As mentioned in Column-8 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details		
	i) Officer Inviting tender		Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar
	ii) Availability of Tender	:	Dt.12.12.2025 from 11.00 hours to Dt.29.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM
	iii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid	:	Dt. 30.12.2025 at 11.00 AM
	iv) Date of Opening of Financial Bid	:	To be intimated later on

Further details can be seen from the web site : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
O-1656: **Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar.**
OIPR-25082/11/0038/2526

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
28	SE / C / PCC	Manufacture of 39600 Nos of 8m PSC poles in MG Pudur PSc Yard Eastern side in Coimbatore Region

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/6566/Tender/2025

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number:U40109PB2010SGC033813|Website:www.pspcl.in
(Contact no. 96461-17659, 0164-2756347)

Tender Enquiry no: 1882/FE&T/O&M/PC-2749 | **Dated: 09-12-2025**

Chief Engineer / O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, LehraMohabbat-151111 Distt. Bathinda invites **E-tender for the Procurement of Agro Residue-based Biomass Non-Torrefied Pellets for GHTP, LehraMohabbat**. Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 09-12-2025 at 17:00 hrs onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

GHTP-97/25 1079/12/2025-26/5818

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP-Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1.	West-1	BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.60,23,696/- / Rs. 60,250/-	22.12.2025 upto 4:00 pm.	23.12.2025 after 4.30 pm
2.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025	Rs. 22,17,135/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
3.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 38,75,974/- / Rs. 38,800/-		
4.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025	Rs.22,38,224/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
5.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025	Rs. 24,30,120/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
6.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025	Rs. 43,99,036/- / Rs. 68,100/-		
7.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025	Rs. 21,28,866/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
8.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025 (Reserved for Cat-II (A) Catagery)	Rs. 22,81,474/- / Rs. 25,000/-		
9.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025	Rs. 42,02,848/- / Rs. 84,100/-		
10.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025 (Reserved for Cat-II (A) Catagery)	Rs. 56,66,363/- / Rs. 56,700/-		
11.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025	Rs. 32,57,984/- / Rs. 65,200/-		
12.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025	Rs. 29,59,387/- / Rs. 59,200/-		
13.		BWSSB/EEW-1/TO/PB/4913/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025	Rs. 42,38,267/- / Rs.84,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

14.	WWM CV-2	BWSSB/EE(WWM)CV-2/ PB/367/2025-26 Date: 08.12.2025	Rs. 55,82,541/- / Rs.1,11,650/-	18.12.2025 upto 4:00 pm.	19.12.2025 after 4.10 pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM CV-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/4353/SSC/2025-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No. 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Phone No. 080-22265383 e-mail: cdoce1@kiadb.in website: www.kiadb.in

No.: IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-65/2937/2025-26 Date: 10.12.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GoK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work: Construction of Rigid Pavement (Cement Concrete) Roads in 24m wide 1st Cross Road (Balance length) & 15m wide 3rd Main Road & Balance length of 15m wide 2nd Cross (cannal road) construction of RCC side drains & RCC culvert, construction of pump house and laying of water supply pipeline at Sarathi Kurubarahalli 1st Stage Industrial Area, Harihara Taluk, Davangere District.

Applicants may download bidding documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

• Last date and time for receipt of tenders: 12.01.2026 upto 4:00 p.m.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, K.I.A.D.B, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/LC/4368/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency,
Bangalore Office of the Executive Engineer,
Project Division, Chikmagalur
No:EE/PD/Ckm/AE/Tender/ /NGNRY/2025-26/04/
Date: 08-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer PMGSY Project Division, Chikmagalur, invites Item Rate Tenders through kppp procurement portal for 6th Year Renewal Road works of Package No.KS-09-13(General) in Mudigere Constituency of Chikkamagaluru District under Namma Grama Namma Rasthe Yojane-III (KRRDA/ 2025- 26/RD/WORK_INDENT245) work by two cover system. Class-3 and above Contractors who have registered in PWD adopting the guidelines of the KW3 Bidding Documents are eligible in participation of tendering. Accessing the bid document on kppp procurement portal from 18-12-2025 from 16.00Hrs. Last date for bid submission is 19-01-2026 upto 16.30Hrs. Further details can be obtained from this office any working days between or by logging onto https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Tendering Officer, PIU, Project Division, Chikmagalur

DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/25-26/118/1363

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

No.IDCO/HO-P&A/A-10240/01/2021/V-6/ 35104 Date : 08.12.2025

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. P&A/EST/E-01/2025-26

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) invites Technical & Financial proposals from reputed Manpower / Human Resource Agency having a Registered Office / Branch Office must be located within the jurisdictional area of Bhubaneswar, Odisha and experience in providing Manpower of various backgrounds (engineering, management, legal, environment, agriculture etc.) in Odisha and across India.

The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document can be downloaded from e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha from **5 PM of 11.12.2025** to **5PM of 02.01.2026**. Interested applicants are requested to send their queries by **18.12.2025 by 4 PM** in the email id (**cgmpa@idco.in**). The last date of receipt of technical & financial bids through e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha is **02.01.2026 till 5 PM**.

The Cost of Bid document is Rs.11,800/- and is to be paid online. The technical bids will be opened online on **03.01.2026 at 12.00 PM**. IDCO reserves the right to accept or reject the Notice/RFP without assigning any reasons thereof.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.idco.in**

Sd/- **Chief General Manager (P&A)**
CAD-2646: OIPR-14003/11/0260/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
Near Bana Durga Temple, Sankara, Sundargarh, Dist: Sundargarh-PIN-770020
Email: serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
Via E-mail/ E-despatch

Office Order No.3941// Date :.09.12.2025

1st Corrigendum

The date of availability of tender online/ date of seeking clarification/ date of opening of tender for all the works except Sl no.1,10,11 and 12 invited under NIT Letter No: 3808 dtd 29.11.2025 vide Bid Identification No: Online - **RWCCESNG-26 of 2025-26** are hereby modified as follows:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding upto	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Technical Bid Opening	Financial Bid Opening
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-26 of 2025-26	23.12.2025 11:00 AM	12.01.2026 5:00 PM	09.01.2026 5:00 PM	13.01.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

All other terms and Conditions are remained Unchanged.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
O-1758: OIPR-25133/11/0088/2526

AI must pay

The working paper on AI and Copyright Issues is a good start

The rapid strides being made by LLMs in terms of quality, depth of information and sophistication of reasoning, are fuelled by two major factors. The first is iterative advancements in applied machine learning techniques, which continuously improve the performance of LLMs. The second is growing access to text, data and multimedia used in training these models. AI firms have argued that information on the Internet should be freely usable for such training, even if reproduction and similar acts of syndication by any non-AI entity would be subject to a licence fee and consent by the content producer. This has led to a fierce debate that pits the interests of AI hyperscalers and developers against content producers (news, entertainment and book publishing, to name a few). In this light, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's working paper on AI and Copyright Issues' proposal is a welcome step towards a solution where content providers are remunerated, without having a system that could put India's AI ecosystem at a disadvantage.

The paper's solution boils down to a mandatory licensing framework, which would allow AI data scraping tools to limitlessly scrape public information from the Internet, but would ensure that a non-profit copyright society-like body would collect payments from AI developers on the basis of revenue accrued to them through the benefits of training their models on Indian content producers' data. The reasoning is partly driven by practical shrewdness on the drafting committee's part, which rightly reasons that opting out of data scraping, and enforcing this when AI developers ignore their wishes, is not practical for every content producer. The other driver is a belief in data processing as a right for AI models, seeing as they do not usually reproduce content they are trained on, but synthesise fresh outputs. There are issues with how the royalty amount would be decided – small publishers who put in effort and investment in their work may chafe at receiving as much remuneration a piece as a big media house putting out hundreds of articles a day. But a system for remuneration is urgent, even if flawed. Lawsuits pitting AI firms against the publishers of the content they train models on are ongoing, and no uniform judicial thinking has materialised on the subject. The committee correctly notes that waiting for the outcome of any given litigation is unwise. The white paper – and a dissent by tech industry representatives – is a promising gesture towards a collaborative framework. The government needs to support this. A flawed system can be deliberated in the courts; the absence of one is a gift to AI firms in their ongoing disruption of the media and net landscape.

Truce in tatters

ASEAN should do more to end dispute between Cambodia and Thailand

The resumption of hostilities between Thailand and Cambodia this week marks a dangerous unravelling of the fragile truce that U.S. President Donald Trump helped broker just two months ago, and a slide toward a conflict that threatens regional stability. The latest escalation began in May, when a Cambodian soldier was killed in skirmishes near the ancient Preah Vihear temple in the contested border region. Cambodia responded by banning Thai goods and closing key border crossings, driving bilateral ties to a new low. In July, five Thai soldiers were injured in a landmine explosion in the same area. Bangkok accused Cambodia of laying mines, and downgraded diplomatic ties. This was followed by cross-border fighting that killed at least 48 people and displaced over 3,00,000 civilians in five days. In late July, a diplomatic push by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, backed by Mr. Trump, produced a ceasefire. But tensions lingered. In November, Thailand announced that it would suspend implementation of the ceasefire after a landmine blast injured several soldiers. That decision set the stage for the fighting on December 7, with Cambodia accusing Thailand of launching air strikes.

The Thai-Cambodian crisis has colonial roots in the Franco-Siamese (Thai) treaties of 1904 and 1907, which defined the boundary between Siam and French Indochina. While these treaties sketched borders along the forested Dângrêk ranges, the line remained largely undemarcated on the ground. The flashpoint has been Preah Vihear, the 11th century Khmer Hindu temple and UNESCO World Heritage Site. In 1962, the International Court of Justice awarded Cambodia sovereignty over the temple, but the dispute has endured in the absence of a mutually accepted border demarcation. The latest flare-up reflects an erosion of trust and hostility between the two nations. Foreign investors and tourists watch nervously as the two ASEAN members exchange fire across the border. ASEAN is already grappling with a far larger challenge in Myanmar where a brutal military regime seems determined to cling to power even at the cost of its own people. If the Thai-Cambodia border crisis metastasises into something worse, South-East Asia's hard-won reputation for stability and economic cooperation could further be undermined. Regional powers such as Malaysia and Indonesia have both the interests and the influence to facilitate renewed dialogue and must press both sides to return to talks without delay. Once the ceasefire is restored, ASEAN should promote confidence-building measures to address the deep mistrust between the two countries and ensure that another round of fighting does not erupt.

The national song debate, a reading between the lines

K. Chandru

is retired Judge, Madras High Court

Much before the celebrations of the 150th year of the national song, *Vande Mataram*, on November 7, 2025, one of India's leading music directors composed a song woven around the *Vande Mataram* tune (the album, *Maa Tujhe Salaam*). It was a song that was immensely popular. So, why the sudden focus on *Vande Mataram* and a debate in Parliament which saw accusations that words of the original song were muted to appease certain sections, and that all this amounted to a betrayal by the Congress?

The so-called 'mutilation' of the song – a line being peddled by the government of the day – was part of an official resolution of the Congress Party's Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Calcutta on October 30, 1937. The CWC meeting had Jawaharlal Nehru chairing the session and almost all the big stalwarts which included Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Bhulabhai Desai, Jamnalal Bajaj, Acharya J.B. Kripalani (General Secretary), Pattabi Seetharamiah, Rajaji, Acharya Narendra Dev, Jayaprakash Narayan, and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in attendance.

The sense of the meeting

Though Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the CWC, he was a special invitee and was finalising the working of the resolution which was moved by Rajendra Prasad (later, the President of India) and seconded by Sardar Patel (the Home Minister in independent India). The resolution was unanimous: "The Working Committee have given careful consideration to the question that has been raised in regard to the Congress anthem '*Vande Mataram*'. This song has a historic background and has evoked deep enthusiasm and powerful sentiment in the course of our struggle for freedom. It has thus acquired a unique place in the national movement. The Committee recognize the validity of the objections raised by Muslim friends to certain parts of the song. While the Committee have taken note of such objections in so far as it has felt justified in doing so, it is unable to go any further in the matter. The Committee have, however, came to the conclusion that the first two stanzas of the song, which alone have been generally sung on Congress and other public occasions, should be the only stanzas adopted as the National Song for the purpose of the Congress and other public bodies and functions. These two stanzas are in no sense objectionable even from the standpoint of those who have raised objections, and they contain the essence of the song. The Committee recommend that wherever the '*Vande Mataram*' song is sung at national gatherings, only these two stanzas should be sung, and the version and music prepared by Rabindranath Tagore should be followed. The Committee trust that this decision will remove all causes of complaint and will have the willing acceptance of all communities in the country."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has indirectly targeted this resolution of the CWC in which even Sardar Patel was a part of. But has the Prime Minister realised that he has attacked a spectrum of national leaders, whose remarks on the song are being used selectively to try and score points?

What was the purpose of debating this in Parliament? Was it to have a debate on the issue for the second time much after the one in the Constituent Assembly which sealed the issue? Composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, *Vande Mataram* was first published in the literary journal, *Bangadarshan*, in 1875 and was sung at the 1896 session of the Congress by Tagore. All these exercises took place much before the partition of Bengal.

> The controversy being sought to be created now over *Vande Mataram* makes one doubt the intentions of the present government

There is no doubt that the song became the spirit of all meetings of the national movement which also had substantial representation by Muslims also. It was in 1935, when the Government of India Act was enacted, that Indians got a chance to participate in the electoral exercise to get into Provincial Assemblies and the Central Legislative Assembly. The issue of participation in the elections held in 1937 had inner party repercussions. The Congress captured the Provincial Assemblies. Some were won by the Muslim League.

When the Congress entered the portals of power, it also had the duty to ensure a diverse culture and have *Vande Mataram* sung at government functions. The Calcutta session became the focal point to decide to have the edited version so that it would have a pan-India appeal. The song obviously had references to Hindu goddesses, but if one wanted to ensure the broader unity of religious groups, a basic understanding on its theme was essential. It was this pragmatic decision which made them contest elections in alliance and continue in the government for the next two years. In 1939, the Congress ministries resigned in eight provinces of British India.

Later, when the Constituent Assembly was convened and the interim parliament was doubling as the Constituent Assembly in 1947, it had 208 Congress members, 73 Muslim League members, and 15 others. It also had 93 members nominated from the princely States, giving it a total of 389 members. After Partition, and the departure of the Muslim League members from the Constituent Assembly, there were only 299 members – a majority of them from the Hindu fold. It will not be out of place to state that the entry of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was possible when he was elected from Bengal Assembly by the Muslim League-dominated Assembly. After Partition, he could not continue and it was Nehru who made the decision to make the Bombay Governor nominate Dr. Ambedkar to the Assembly.

Making a choice

The Constituent Assembly also had ideas of having a national anthem for the country. Members were made to listen to three important songs that were in contention – *Vande Mataram*, *Sare Jahan Se Achha* and *Jana Gana Mana*. Though secular in its meaning and set to a marching tune, *Sare Jahan Se Achha* was not picked as the lyricist, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, had become an ardent Pakistan supporter. Even after the final draft of the Constitution was adopted in 1949 in the House headed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and two days before the coming into force of the Constitution, in 1950, *Vande Mataram* was sung in the House by a group.

However, Members were in favour of *Jana Gana Mana*, passing a resolution that it would be the National Song. The Constitution, which has 395 Articles, never referred to any national song as part of the constitutional framework. It was only in 1976, by the 42nd amendment, under Mrs. Gandhi's tenure, that a provision was introduced for a fundamental duty under Article 51A (which also had a clause obligating every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideas and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem).

It was later, under the Prevention Of Insults To National Honour Act, 1971, that disrespect to the National Anthem was made a penal offence. The Supreme Court of India, in *Bijoe Emmanuel vs State of Kerala*, upheld the constitutional rights to freedom of religion and expression provided that actions do not disrupt public order or show disrespect to national symbols.

Despite being a Hindu majority, the Constituent Assembly selected *Jana Gana Mana* as the national anthem and was of the opinion that *Vande Mataram* would be the national song under its adopted version. It is against this background that one has to view the sudden ebullition over *Vande Mataram* with the request made by those in the ruling party to Members of Parliament to consider whether they should add a new fundamental duty under Article 51A, to accord the same respect to *Vande Mataram* as *Jana Gana Mana*.

In 2017, Justice M.V. Muralidharan of the Madras High Court gave a direction to the Tamil Nadu School Education Department that schools must sing *Vande Mataram* at least once a week, and crooned in offices once a month. Noting that the song could also be played in other government and private establishments at least once in a month, the judge said that if people felt that it was too difficult to sing it in Bengali or in Sanskrit, steps could be taken to translate the song into Tamil.

The Delhi High Court asked the Government of India to treat *Vande Mataram* on a par with the National Anthem. What is curious is that it was the same Narendra Modi government that told the court that both the National Anthem and the National Song had their sanctity and deserve equal respect. However, it said that the subject matter of the proceedings could never be a subject matter of a writ. The Modi government defended its position in court against granting equal legal status to the National Song as the National Anthem by citing the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, which specifically criminalises disrupting the anthem but lacks a parallel provision for the National Song, highlighting the legal distinction.

A deeper reading

The new controversy being sought to be created now over the National Song, 75 years after it was settled down by the Constituent Assembly, makes one doubt the intentions of the the present government. Is there an agenda to replace the National Song by a simple resolution of Parliament akin to the similar exercise done to cancel the special status of Jammu and Kashmir?

The amount of importance and publicity being given now to a non-issue certainly makes one to believe that it could be the next move of the Narendra Modi government – which is to bring in a different National Anthem for the country without disturbing the Constitution of India and any law to the contrary.

A verdict that is an abdication of judicial function

Manuraj Shunmuga-sundaram

is a spokesperson of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and an advocate practising before the Madras High Court

The judgment of the Supreme Court in the 16th Presidential Reference has been criticised and praised in equal measure, with the repercussions from this verdict analysed threadbare. The core issue concerns the fixing of timelines to the functions of high constitutional authorities. While the reasoning in the judgment signals judicial deference to the written constitutional language, it also comes across as an abdication of the ultimate judicial function: to interpret the Constitution in accordance with the changing times. Such hesitation does not bode well for a court that is endowed with tremendous constitutional powers of judicial review.

It is common knowledge that the Constitution of India is silent when it comes to prescribing timelines for the actions contemplated to be exercised by various authorities such as the President of India, Governors of States and Speakers of the Houses. Take the case of Speakers – in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies: among other duties, they are mandated to perform the role of a quasi-judicial tribunal to decide the defection of elected members. This power is provided under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, but there is no timeline specified for completion of defection proceedings.

An anomaly

This gives rise to a constitutional anomaly. While the term of the Assembly and Parliament is fixed as five years, the non-stipulation of a time-period for deciding a defection petition means that, theoretically, the tenure of the elected member could expire without the member ever facing the lawful consequence for committing the wrong of defection.

In the recent past, this anomaly has played itself out in a number of States, thereby effectively defeating the very ideals that led to the inclusion of the anti-defection law.

> The hesitation of the top court to mandate or develop a time-frame for constitutional functionaries will impinge on constitutional morality

Similarly, the actions of Governors in withholding the legislative businesses have led to a number of disputes. This surely could not have been the intent of the Constitution or its drafters in providing for gubernatorial functions. The question here is not whether Governors have the power to return the Bills to the Government for reconsideration. It is whether Governors can sit on duly passed legislative business without any regard for time and effectively nullify a validly enacted law. The answer is in the negative. Only constitutional courts have been granted the power to strike down legislative and executive actions if they are found to be *ultra vires*.

The irony in the verdict

Ironically, the verdict in the Presidential Reference leans in favour of not imposing any timelines. The judgment argues that the constitutional design did not include or prescribe any timeline in Article 200, and therefore discourages any such stipulation for constitutional functionaries. This has the effect of upholding the actions of Governors in practically blocking the laws passed by elected State Assemblies. This amounts to more than just ceding of their judicial review powers to the Governors. It fails to apprehend how the Constitution can be thwarted to achieve ends that are inimical to its own founding ideals. In this regard, the Court ought to have interpreted the silence within the Constitution in a manner that would have safeguarded its morality.

Speaking on November 4, 1948, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar made his now famous plea for constitutional morality to be imbibed into the foundational document of the soon-to-be Republic and ultimately, be diffused among its citizens. This speech and its reference to the doctrine of constitutional morality have gained in judicial significance in the recent past. Landmark progressive judgments in the cases dealing with the entry of women into Sabarimala Temple and around LGBTQIA+ rights have borrowed this concept heavily to interpret the constitutional text in a manner that is in line with public conscience.

A pointer

Dr. Ambedkar's plea for constitutional morality came coupled with a strongly worded advisory for future courts. He explained how a "form of administration has a close connection with the form of the Constitution". He warned that it would be possible to pervert the Constitution by merely changing the form of administration. The practice of Speakers not ruling on defections and Governors sitting on Bills beyond the tenure of the Assembly are textbook examples of constitutional perversion.

The question of how much detail could be added into the Constitution certainly weighed heavily on Dr. Ambedkar's mind for he considered that there was a risk of omitting the details of administration from the document and leaving it to legislatures. However, he trusted successive generations of the Republic and its courts to ensure that the founding principles were not compromised.

Seen whichever way, the hesitation of the Court to mandate or develop a time-frame for constitutional functionaries can only lead to self-defeating outcomes. Such repercussions are likely to defeat the founding ideals of the Constitution itself. It is, also, a timely reminder of how the principles of constitutional morality – as envisaged by Dr. Ambedkar – have still to diffuse sufficiently amongst us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Heritage and politics

The 150th anniversary of *Vande Mataram* deserves attention beyond political rhetoric. It should ideally be an opportunity to reaffirm inclusive unity — celebrating the song's historical significance, remembering the sacrifices tied to it, and encouraging respect across communities. Using it as a wedge undermines its legacy and the very idea of national solidarity.

It is essential to reclaim *Vande Mataram* from political contestation and restore it as a shared cultural asset that belongs to all Indians.

Anya Sai Iyer,
Bengaluru

Our founding fathers would never have imagined the song to spark debate. Yet, even in controversy, its call to love the motherland reminds us of our shared heritage and enduring unity.

T.S. Karthik,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

SIR and the annihilation of rights

Chakradhar Buddha

works with LibTech India, a centre within CORD. Views are personal

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teaches in Azim Premji University, Bangalore and is affiliated with LibTech India. Views are personal

The second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) is ongoing in 12 States and Union Territories. The exercise will cover nearly 51 crore voters.

Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, says that any person who is "ordinarily resident in a constituency" can be enrolled in the electoral rolls. In 1999, the Gauhati High Court provided an expansive interpretation of "ordinarily [a] resident" as anybody who is ""a habitual resident of that place" and that "he must have the intention to dwell permanently". It added that an ordinary resident would be such that any "reasonable man will accept him as the resident of that state." And so, exercising constitutional morality, the ECI and the judiciary have operated on the premise of presumed citizenship. Any resident adult was by default considered to be a valid voter.

The current SIR makes a U-turn from such a default conceptualisation of citizenship. Regardless of having voted in earlier elections, every elector now has to match their names and documents with the electoral rolls of 2002-2005. Such an inversion of responsibility by shifting the onus of compliance from the state to the people risks disenfranchising many; women, migrants, and the homeless are likely to be most hit.

Technocratic playbook

Such an architecture appears to have strong resemblances with the technocratic play book of the Union government in welfare delivery that has led to large-scale exclusions. The formula is straightforward: shift the responsibility of inclusion from the state to the people, give strict targets to officials with haphazard protocols, discipline officials to achieve 100% coverage in a short time, give an ultimatum to people to comply or strip away their rights, and then show efficiency gains claiming de-duplication by deleting people. This is how it has played out in MGNREGA and many other welfare programmes.

Every rural household is by default entitled to MGNREGA work. Prior to 2022, MGNREGA workers were paid using an account-based system in which errors, if any, could be rectified locally by the computer operator at the block office. In 2022, the Union government mandated the use of the Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS) in MGNREGA which meant that workers had to link their MGNREGA job cards with their Aadhaar. Without this, their right to work would cease. Procedures on dealing with mismatches across workers' two documents were unclear. Some officials got overburdened with the quantum of work while some others transferred the responsibility of fixing document errors to workers. While many workers were unaware of how to do this, several others were not in their village to complete this within the stipulated period. To hastily achieve 100% Aadhaar linking targets set by the Union government, many officials then began deleting workers from the MGNREGA database. In an ongoing research paper, based on a random sample of 2.98 lakh of worker deletions between 2022 and 2024, we find that since ABPS became mandatory, an estimated two-thirds of all those deleted in India were deleted on grounds of being "unwilling to work". This is a legal violation, as per the Act.

The logic in SIR goes beyond this. The 2002-2005 rolls are not machine readable and even a minor mismatch between present details and the earlier electoral rolls can lead to notices and potential deletion. In 2021, the Union government introduced the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app to digitally record attendance of workers. On the one hand, this denied attendance to many workers and on the other, it aided in newer forms of corruption. The Ministry of Rural Development has itself flagged that the NMMS is being "misused or manipulated" in several instances. Workers protested to have the app scrapped; the government instead introduced an additional digital layer of pushing workers to do an e-KYC. With stringent targets and timelines, frontline officials had limited scope to address migration-related absences and recurring app or documentation glitches. Consequently, nearly 27 lakh deletions in just one month became the administrative route to close pending records.

Constitutional morality

What is eerily similar in the technocratic adventures in MGNREGA and the SIR is the structural codification of exclusions. Even well-meaning officials are pressured to focus on dashboards and targets. Unable to cope with pressures, some have reportedly taken their own lives. And, among others, since field officials are judged based on targets such as completion rates, exclusions become a quick way to show progress. By the time the harmful consequences are known, it becomes a fait accompli. For example, it took more than a year for the Union government to issue a standard operating procedure on worker deletions, much after the rights of millions got deleted. Also, grievance channels are inaccessible for vulnerable groups, because they require procedural agency that is rarely available.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar stressed on the need for constitutional morality. An interpretation of this is that institutions must embody fraternity, which implies that inclusion must be the norm and exclusion the exception. But by inverting the citizen-state relationship and putting the onus of onerous documentation on people, the ECI is compromising on constitutional morality. In turn, the polity risks the annihilation of their rights. It is still not late. As suggested by experts, social audits can be an alternative to the SIR.

What is eerily similar in the technocratic adventures in MGNREGA and the SIR is the structural codification of exclusions

Winds of change in music

Changes have caught up with the sabhas in Chennai in many ways

STATE OF PLAY

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As Chennai prepares to immerse itself in yet another music season, the decision of the Music Academy – one of the city's premier institutions – to invite music director A.R. Rahman to inaugurate its 99th annual music conference and concerts reflects a significant shift from its prior view on music. 'Isaignani' Ilaiyaraaja, who blends Carnatic ragas with folk and western classical music, inaugurated the music festival of the Academy in 2017.

Changes have caught up with the sabhas in many ways. Even the language of performance is no longer an issue. Singers who once chose Telugu or Sanskrit compositions of the Carnatic Trinity and *keerthanas* in other languages to showcase their *vidwat* at the Music Academy now frequently opt for Tamil songs as the main item, or even for the *ragam-tanam-pallavi*.

A variety of factors has ushered in this shift. The old-timers who traced their roots to the composite Thanjavur region along the Cauvery, or to the courts of Ramanathapuram, Ettayapuram, and villages in Tirunelveli – once the living links between past and present – have almost vanished from the scene. The musical landscape is now dominated by a new generation groomed in Chennai and they are cosmopolitan in outlook. Though the majority are still Brahmins and follow the conventional kutcheri format on stage, their professional lives extend well beyond its boundaries. Their work is marked by collaborations with

artistes from other genres, experiments with new forms, and performances for new and diverse audiences. In the age of the Internet, they no longer relate to Carnatic music solely as a sacred, bhakti-oriented art. Tradition and *sampradaya*, as a result, cannot be interpreted in the old ways. Carnatic music is a full-time profession today. When artistes collaborate across genres they do so not just for popularity but with commitment and understanding.

Among the new experiments is Band Cooum, comprising singer Susha, violinist Shreya Devnath, and percussionist Praveen Sparsh – each with a strong Carnatic background – along with parai artistes Deepan and 'Rocket' Raji (Rajendran) of the Friends Kalai Kuzhu troupe.

The members of A Carnatic Quartet – featuring violinist Shreya Devnath, mridangam artiste Praveen Sparsh, nagaswaram player Mylai Karthikeyan, and thavil player Jeevanantham – have explained how collaboration and exchange of ideas have enriched their playing and deepened their understanding of music. The Chennai Sangamam, organised by the DMK government headed by M. Karunanidhi (2006-11) and driven by MP Kanimozhi, also facilitated encounters between Carnatic and folk artistes, and took Carnatic concerts to public parks.

Vocalist Sanjay Subrahmanyan, in his memoir *On That Note*, recalls how he once resolved to be a purely classical singer even as others – including P. Unnikrishnan, Bombay Jayashri, and Nithyasree – were breaking barriers between Carnatic music and cinema. Yet, he too eventually sang for films. After the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid expansion of digital platforms, audiences no longer feel compelled to attend live concerts; they can simply listen from home. This has pushed artistes to tailor their concerts and collaborations to suit an invisible, dispersed audience. Sid Sriram balances careers as playback singer and Carnatic vocalist, as did K.J. Yesudas before him. Almost all the singers of the Quarantine From Reality, a popular music programme produced by Subashree Thanikachalam, were Carnatic vocalists.

Puritans who look down on other musical forms often forget that Papanasam Sivan, celebrated as the Tamil Tyagaraja, had a long and successful innings in cinema as a composer. G.N. Balasubramaniam, a trendsetter in Carnatic music, acted and sang in films. M.S. Subbulakshmi and N.C. Vasanthakokilam too had notable film careers.

In his book, *A Southern Music: The Karnatic Story*, T.M. Krishna notes that the first major change that Rahman brought to cinema was the quality of sound, whether local or instrumental. His arrival coincided with leaps in technology that transformed how film music was produced and experienced. "Elements of Carnatic music have appeared throughout the history of South Indian film music...," he writes. "Rahman and his successors have at times used Carnatic ragas as superficial sources of melodies."

Sudan civil war: Deepening humanitarian crisis

With close to 10 million people fleeing their homes, the displacement crisis in Sudan is currently the largest and fastest growing

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

Sudan's economy has contracted sharply since the civil war broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on April 15, 2023. Its GDP, which had already been weakening, saw its steepest contraction in 2023-24, shrinking by 29% **(Chart 1).**

The civil war stems from a power struggle between the SAF, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo or 'Hemedti'. Tensions between the two forces (who had earlier cooperated in the removal of former President Omar al-Bashir in 2019 and later jointly carried out the 2021 coup) escalated over plans to integrate the RSF into the national army. Reports said both generals wanted to cling to power, unwilling to give up wealth and influence. The dispute became a nationwide conflict, splitting Sudan into zones of control: the SAF in the east and centre, including Port Sudan and parts of Khartoum, and the RSF across most of Darfur and large parts of Kordofan.

The RSF has intensified its offensive across the Kordofan region even as a recent drone strike on the town of Kalogi killed dozens of civilians, including children, according to the UN. The attack on Kalogi, an army-held area in South Kordofan, involved three strikes. A kindergarten and a hospital were hit, and a third strike was carried out as residents attempted to rescue injured children.

The strike comes at a time when the RSF is consolidating control in western Sudan and pushing deeper into the oil-rich Kordofan region, while the SAF is attempting to secure key routes linking central Sudan to the west. Analysts say the RSF's territorial gains in Darfur and Kordofan give it the basis to run a parallel administration in the west, while the SAF retains central and eastern areas.

The escalation in Kordofan follows a major shift in the war: the fall of El Fasher after an 18-month siege. El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, was the last SAF stronghold in the region. During the siege, the RSF encircled the city using sand berms and cut off civilian movement. Data from ACLED show nearly 400 incidents of violence targeting civilians in El Fasher and surrounding areas between April 2023 and late October 2025. More than 55% of these incidents occurred in 2025. Over 1,400 people were reported killed in the region in this period.

The humanitarian crisis remains severe. The conflict has resulted in more than 50,000 reported deaths **(Chart 2)**. Displacement figures show that at least 9.8 million people have been forced to flee their homes as of September 2025 **(Chart 3)**, the largest as well as the fastest growing displacement crisis globally.

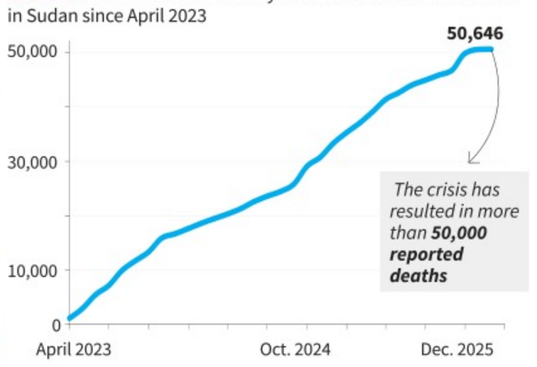
Market data show how the conflict is reshaping survival conditions. In Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan, the price of sorghum remained relatively stable for nearly two decades until the conflict escalated. Recent figures show that prices have surged more than tenfold, crossing $40 for a three kilogram measure in 2025 **(Chart 4A)**. In El Fasher, the effect on food access has been even more extreme. By 2025, the cost of 3.5 kilograms of millet exceeded $500 **(Chart 4B).**

Nationwide food insecurity data shows a worsening of conditions over the past three years **(Chart 5)**. Sudan entered famine conditions for the first time in September 2025, with 1% of the population now classified at the highest level of food insecurity. The share of the population with minimal food security came down from 47% in late 2022 to 24% in September 2025. Crisis-level food insecurity rose from 13% to 31%.

In dire straits

The data for the charts were sourced from the World Bank, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, OCHA, ACLED and IOM UN Migration

Chart 2: The cumulative monthly death toll due to the violence in Sudan since April 2023



1 Over half the violence in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, and surrounding areas since April 2023 occurred in 2025

2 Over 1,400 people were reportedly killed in El Fasher and its surrounding regions in this period

Chart 1: Sudan's annual GDP growth from 1962 to 2024 (figures in %)

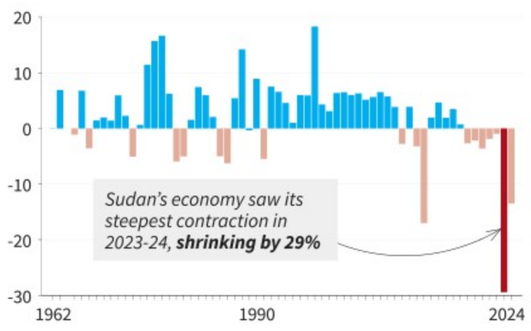


Chart 3: The number of people internally displaced in Sudan since April 2023 (figures in million)

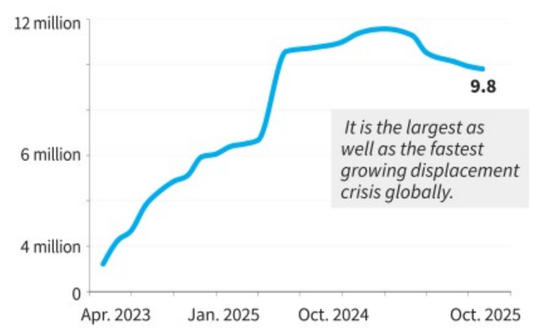


Chart 4A: The monthly price of Sorghum in South Kordofan/Kadugli from 2002 to 2025

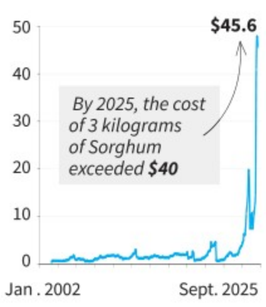


Chart 4B: The monthly price of Millet in North Darfur/El Fasher/Al Fashir from 2002 to 2025

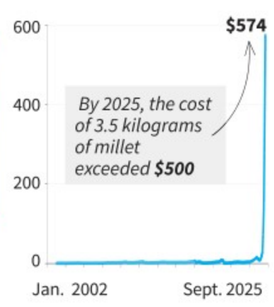
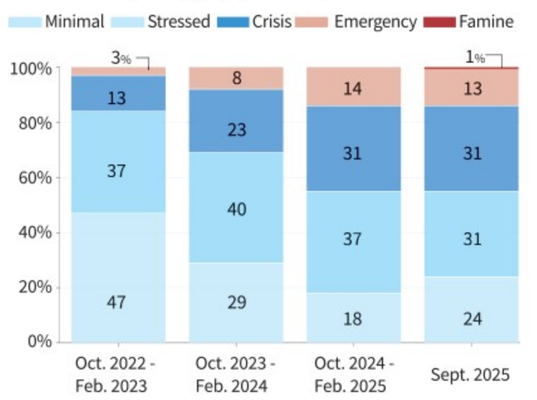


Chart 5: The acute food insecurity levels based on the severity of food consumption gaps (figures in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 11, 1975

Nepal decrees price cuts of 10 to 30 per cent

Kathmandu, Dec. 10: The Government of Nepal last night announced a 10-point programme to bring about "concrete improvement" in the economic and industrial fields.

Among the economic measures contained in the White Paper are a reduction of prices by 10 to 30 per cent of a variety of consumer goods and construction materials.

The prices of consumer goods sold by National Trading Limited, a State-owned Corporation, is reduced by 10 per cent and construction material, by 20 per cent. Fertilizer will cost 16 per cent less which should be welcome as the Kingdom is observing this year as "agricultural year."

Rice, a staple food of the people, will cost less by 25 paise a kilogramme.

The White Paper which has been issued within days of the new Prime Minister, Dr. Tulsi Giri's diagnosis that the country is passing through a "critical economic phase", calls upon all Government corporations to reduce overhead costs within three months. Ministers have also been asked to streamline their working.

Shortly after Dr. Giri became Prime Minister he said that his Council of Ministers will face "head on" problems of price increase, corruption and red-tapism.

A notable measure is that the private sector will be enlarged and it will play "a dominant role." It will also be allowed alongside the public sector to trade in jute.

As far as the public sector is concerned, its field of operation is to be confined to certain commodities and essential services. The commodities were not identified in the White Paper, which said they would be announced later.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 11, 1925

Production of raw silk in the empire

London, Dec. 10: According to "The Daily Telegraph" the Department of Overseas Trade is considering the possibility of promoting the production of raw silk within the Empire. Preliminary investigation shows that Cyprus, Kenya Highlands, North Queensland, Hongkong, Iraq and parts of India are suitable.

From Page One

Illegal immigrants will be deported, says Shah

"Their [Opposition] policy on the other hand is to normalise infiltrators and then formalise them into voter lists," Mr. Shah said.

The EC has a constitutional mandate to prepare clean electoral rolls under Article 326 of the Constitution, he said. "The first SIR was carried out in 1952 when Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime Minister. From 1952 to 2004, no party opposed SIR as it is the process to prepare a transparent electoral roll," Mr. Shah said.

The Opposition is fine with electoral rolls and the EC when they win elections and only have problems with them when they lose, he said.

Mr. Shah said, "We have lost more elections than we have won. We have never blamed the EC. Since 2014, we have won 44 elections and the Opposition has won 30. If the voter list is wrong, then why did you take oath?"

"Can any country remain safe if infiltrators decide who will be the Prime Minister the Chief Minister? Should one voter have vote at more than one place? Can dead people have their names in voter lists? This is just purifying electoral rolls. I agree that some political parties would be affected with this," he said. "We have to decide whether while electing a government, a foreigner has the the right to vote or not," he added.

On the issue of the Chief Justice of India not being included in the panel for the selection of the CEC and ECs, Mr. Shah pointed out that for 73 years, there was no law for appointment of ECs, and the Prime Minister would do it himself.

Regarding the clause on deleting CCTV footage of polling booths after 45 days, Mr. Shah noted that under the Representation of People Act, 1950, an election can be challenged only within 45 days. If election petitions can only be filed within 45 days, then how can CCTV footage help after that, he questioned.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Mr. Shah's speech in a post on X and said "with concrete facts, he has highlighted diverse aspects of our electoral process, the strength of our democracy and also exposed the lies of the Opposition."

Loco pilot 'unfit' to run train: Bilaspur report

During the performance assessment for grading conducted on November 22 last year, his score in 'knowledge of safety' was only 2 out of 7. In the two telephonic calls that he made to the Chief Loco Inspector while running the train, the loco pilot had sought clarifications on minor MEMU operating issues, which also indicated his lack of knowledge, the report said.

"The problems for which the loco pilot contacted the Chief Loco Inspector are of routine nature and should have been resolved by the loco pilot himself... It clearly shows lack of knowledge and confidence on the part of the loco pilot," he said.

Describing the circumstances that led to the accident, the Commissioner said that the loco pilot had violated the rules on passing the signals in 'caution' aspect. When a signal was in the 'yellow' position, the loco pilot should have proceeded at the prescribed speed and been prepared to stop at the next signal. However, he failed to stop at the next signal which was in 'red'.

The assistant loco pilot, who was authorised to immediately apply emergency brakes without any hesitation in case the loco pilot was over-speeding and the train was likely to pass the signal in danger, did not do so. The sequence of events clearly indicated that timely action was not taken by either the loco pilot or the assistant loco pilot to control the train after passing the signal at caution aspect (single yellow), which resulted in the train crossing the next signal in danger, and subsequently colliding with the goods train, the Commissioner of Railway Safety said in his report.

During the inquiry, Mr. Mishra said, the knowledge of the train manager or guard was also found to be "very poor". Though he had a competency certificate dated November 1, 2025 for working in automatic signal territories, it appeared to have been issued without due examination regarding his knowledge for working on trains, the report said.

DGCA to deploy officials at IndiGo headquarters

Wednesday's decision follows a meeting held by the Prime Minister's Office with officials from the Civil Aviation Ministry, the DGCA, and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to review the redress of passenger complaints related to refunds, missing baggage, and crowd management at airports due to the massive flight disruptions at IndiGo. IndiGo has so far released a total of ₹1,158 crore in refunds, the airline told the government.

The government has also formed a four-member panel to carry out an inquiry into the disruption and the DGCA has issued notices to the airline's CEO and chief operating officer Isidre Porqueras.

In response to criticism on social media on the board's role in maintaining oversight, the airline on Wednesday released a video message from the chairman of the its board, Vikram Singh Mehta. He rubbished allegations that the airline "engineered" the operational disruption and that there were attempts to bypass the rules governing pilot rest and duty times.

Delhi HC directs IndiGo to compensate passengers

Court cites DGCA rules on flight delays and cancellations; it raised concerns over the steep rise in airfares during disruptions; Centre told the court that it had intervened by imposing a fare cap

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday told IndiGo to take steps for payment of compensation to passengers left stranded after the large-scale flight disruptions, while also questioning how airfares on other carriers surged to unprecedented levels during the crisis.

On the issue of compensation for passengers, a Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela referred to a circular dated August 6, 2010, issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) dealing with facilities and compensation in cases of denied boarding, cancellations and delays.

The court ordered that the provision "for payment of compensation will be strictly adhered to by Respondent 3 (IndiGo) and shall be ensured by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA".

Stern warning: The court says that IndiGo must take into account the agony of passengers who faced flight cancellations. AFP

"In addition to the presence of the circular, if there are any other measures available for payment of damages, in such situation, the same shall also be ensured by authorities," the court said.

"Please start making the payment of compensation. It is not only in respect of the cancellation, but also because of the other suffering," the court added. When IndiGo submitted that the incident had "dented" the reputation it had built over many years, the court responded that such submissions had no legal basis. "That we don't know... We will pass an order directing you to make compensation," it said.

"...What about the agony passengers had to endure as they stood stranded, facing what they described as a hostile staff," the court asked, while clarifying that it had not passed any order yet but underscored that compensation is payable under the 2010 circular and should be followed by the airline. The Bench also expressed concern over the sharp rise in ticket prices on other airlines at the height of the disruptions. "Air tickets that were available for ₹4,000-₹5,000 went up to ₹25,000-₹30,000... How could the fare go to ₹39,000-₹40,000? How can it happen," the court asked.

Additional Solicitor-General Chetan Sharma, representing the Centre, informed the court that it had intervened for the first time by issuing fare caps.

However, the court also questioned how such a crisis was allowed to escalate to the point of leaving "lakhs of passengers unattended" at airports. "Such situation is not confined to inconvenience to passengers but also affects the economy of the country as in the present day, fast movement of passengers is an important aspect to keep economy functioning," the Bench remarked.

The matter has been listed for further hearing on January 22, 2026.

Chhattisgarh panel to review cases against surrendered Maoists

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

A provision has been made to form panel to oversee the withdrawal of cases, a statement said

The Chhattisgarh government on Wednesday approved the process for the withdrawal of criminal cases registered against surrendered Maoists.

More than 2,300 Maoists, including high-profile leaders, have surrendered in the State in the past two years, according to the police. Government sources said the latest decision was an "in-principle" one that would look at all eligible cases, including those who had surrendered years ago and are working with the government in the District Reserve Guards, a specialised police unit formed to combat Maoists.

The Opposition has criticised the move and asked the State's BJP government to clarify its stance regarding Maoists involved in serious criminal incidents and those arrested for ordinary incidents against whom a chargesheet had not even been filed.

The decision to form a Cabinet sub-committee to review and examine cases filed against surrendered Maoists that are to be withdrawn from court was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao told presspersons.

"This decision is in accordance with the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Naxalite Surrender/Victim Relief Rehabilitation Policy-2025 issued by the Chhattisgarh government, which provides for the disposal of cases registered against surrendered Naxalites based on their good conduct and contribution to the eradication of Naxalism," Mr. Sao said.

A statement issued by the government added that the provision had been made for the formation of a district-level committee to oversee the withdrawal of cases involving surrendered Maoists.

India gives tepid response to Russian push for Su-57, long-range drones and submarines

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Russia's latest pitch to expand defence cooperation – including offers of the Su-57 fifth-generation stealth fighter, long-range drones and submarines – has met with a lukewarm response from India, officials familiar with the matter said.

A senior official said that in the run-up to President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to India, Moscow made repeated outreach promoting platforms such as the Geran series of kamikaze drones, submarines and aircraft.

"India didn't show much interest in the equipment offered by Russia. The Russians were expecting major movement on the sidelines of the visit and are still pursuing the proposals. We are very much focusing on development of indigenous products," the official said.

Russia's Su-57E fighter jet takes off during the inauguration of AERO INDIA 2025 in Bengaluru in February. K. MURALI KUMAR

Despite high expectations, the much-watched defence announcements during Mr. Putin's visit did not materialise. While 19 agreements aimed at boosting bilateral trade were signed, there was no breakthrough on collaboration involving the Su-57 or Russia's S-500 air defence system.

The restrained response comes at a time when India is driving an aggressive push towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

On Sunday in Leh, while dedicating 125 newly completed Border Roads Organisation (BRO) projects to the nation, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh underscored the transformation in domestic capacity.

Paradigm shift

He highlighted that India, once heavily dependent on arms imports, now boasts a record defence production value of ₹1.51 lakh crore, up from ₹46,000 crore in 2014. Defence exports have surged from under ₹1,000 crore to nearly ₹24,000 crore in a decade. It reflects a paradigm shift.

The Geran drones – Russia's indigenised variant of Iran's Shahed-136 kamikaze drone – have played a major role in Moscow's low-cost attrition strategy in Ukraine, enabling mass salvo attacks. But Indian manufacturers and services have not shown interest in acquiring them.

On October 29, the 23rd Working Group Meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation was held in Moscow. Co-chaired by Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production), and Andrey A. Boytsov, First Deputy Director of Russian Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, the discussions spanned tri-service cooperation and defence R&D.

The meeting concluded with the signing of a Protocol outlining fresh areas of collaboration and mutual growth – even as big-ticket defence deals remain elusive.

IAF personnel showing skills during the 'Vijay Divas' celebration at the Air Force Station at Mohanbari in Assam on Wednesday. PTI

IAF marks 1971 victory with spectacular flying display at Mohanbari

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force celebrated India's historic triumph in the 1971 war with a commemorative event at the Mohanbari Air Force Station in Assam on Wednesday, paying an inspiring tribute to the courage and valour of the armed forces.

The ceremony was attended by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, along with senior military and civilian dignitaries, veterans, and enthusiastic youth from across Assam. The IAF said a breathtaking flying display featuring Su-30 MKI, C-130, Dornier, An-32, Chinook, Mi-17, ALH and Cheetah aircraft vividly recreated iconic missions from the 1971 war, including the Tangail Airdrop, Meghna River Crossing, and the attack on the Governor's House in Dhaka.

As part of the commemoration, a seminar on 'Air operations during the 1971 war' brought together air veterans who shared gripping anecdotes and firsthand experiences from the conflict.

'State is a continuum with commitments beyond pleasing the party or leader of the day'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the commitment of the state and its agencies exist beyond subservience to the political party in power or the leader of the day.

Justice Sanjay Kumar, leading a Bench, observed that the state is a "continuum".

The court's observations came while dismissing a petition filed by the State of Jharkhand against a State High Court-ordered Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into an illegal mining case in which the accused persons are linked to Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The Soren government had contended that the prior consent of the State government was not taken before the CBI probe. Justice Kumar repeatedly questioned the State's interest in "trying to protect criminals".

"Why did the State come here [to the Supreme Court] to protect alleged illegal mining, be it by the friends or family of the Chief Minister?" Justice Kumar asked repeatedly during the hearing.

The State counsel replied that the State was not trying to thwart the case, but was only questioning the transfer of the case to CBI, which ought to be done only in exceptional circumstances and not as a routine affair.

But Justice Kumar pointed out how the State delayed registering a first information report (FIR) in the case for five months in 2022 despite a Magistrate's order.

"A state is a continuum. You have several responsibilities and certain commitments to the law and order. You do not just try to commit yourselves to the Chief Minister of the day; protect his family, his aides, his supporters at all costs, knowing that investigation is taking place against them. That is not the right way of going about," Justice Kumar observed.

The court order recorded its opinion that the "State of Jharkhand cannot seek to support the accused against the CBI FIR".

The Bench noted that the complainant in the case, Bijay Hansda, was "forced to withdraw" his allegations of illegal mining, but the High Court had eventually denied him permission to do so.

Former judges condemn 'motivated campaign' against CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Forty-four former judges of the Supreme Court and various High Courts have condemned what they described as a "motivated campaign" against the Chief Justice of India (CJI), following his remarks during proceedings on Rohingya migrants.

In an open letter, the judges said the "disparagement" of the Supreme Court was unacceptable. "We the undersigned retired judges express our strong objection to the motivated campaign targeting the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India in the wake of his remarks in proceedings concerning Rohingya migrants," the letter said.

The signatories said judicial proceedings can and should be subject to fair, reasoned criticism. However, they said, the campaign was not about principled disagreement, but an attempt to undermine the judiciary by portraying routine courtroom questions as prejudice.

The letter added: "The Chief Justice is being attacked for asking the most basic legal question: who, in law, has granted the status that is being claimed before the court?" They said no adjudication on rights or entitlements can proceed until this basic threshold is addressed.

The judges noted that the Bench had also clearly affirmed that "no human being on Indian soil, citizen or foreigner, can be subjected to torture, disappearance or inhuman treatment, and that every person's dignity must be respected." The letter said to suppress this affirmation and then accuse the Court of "dehumanisation" constituted a serious distortion of what was said.

On legal status, the former judges pointed out that the Rohingya have not entered the country under any statutory refugee-protection framework; in most cases their entry is "irregular or illegal".

Opposition questions removal of CJI from panel to select CEC

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal accuses the government of undermining the idea of an impartial electoral umpire by enacting a law that replaces top court's intent to ensure fair elections; he also refers to *The Hindu's* data analysis of voter deletions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Raising issues: Congress MP K.C. Venugopal speaks in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. ANI

The Opposition and Treasury benches went head to head on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, as the Lok Sabha discussed electoral reforms for the second day on Wednesday.

In a no-holds-barred attack against the government, Congress MP K.C. Venugopal asked why the Chief Justice of India had been removed from the process to select the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the other Election Commissioners (ECs).

Referring to a Supreme Court judgment by a Bench headed by now-retired judge K.M. Joseph, which said the selection committee should include the Prime Minister, the CJI, and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha until a law is framed, Mr. Venugopal said the top court's intention was to ensure free and fair elections.

"You didn't want the Chief Justice in that committee; that is why you enacted a law to remove him," he said. "The idea of an impartial electoral umpire has been replaced now and it has now openly collapsed under political pressure and has become partisan. The right to vote is not a mercy from the government, it is a fundamental principle of democracy," he added.

On voter deletions

Mr. Venugopal questioned the political neutrality of the Election Commission, citing the poll panel's failure to stop cash transfers by the Bihar government in the middle of elections. "Why is the EC acting as an agent of the ruling party," he asked.

Terming alleged vote *chori* (theft) an act against the nation, Mr. Venugopal said: "Instead of preventing it, our EC is enabling it."

He also referred to *The Hindu*'s data analysis of voter deletions from the draft electoral rolls in Bihar under the SIR exercise, which showed an "unusually high proportion" of deaths among younger voters, mostly under the age of 50, across 80 Assembly segments.

Speaking for BLOs

The Congress MP, who informed the House that he is a petitioner against the SIR process in the Supreme Court, raised the issue of suicides by booth-level officers (BLOs). "Who will reply to the families of the BLOs who died by suicide," he asked.

Speaking after him, senior BJP leader and former Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said parliamentary norms demanded that Mr. Venugopal should not have spoken in the House as he was a petitioner in the SIR case. "I would urge the Chair to examine the matter and if it deems fit, get his observations deleted from the records," he said.

Countering Mr. Venugopal on the issue of appointments, the BJP leader said that when an elected government headed by the Prime Minister can be trusted with the nuclear button, "why can't it be the case when selecting a good CEC or EC?"

Mr. Prasad strongly argued against the Opposition's demand for returning to ballot papers in elections, saying it would mean "going back to the days of booth capturing". Opposition leaders had demanded a return to ballot papers and stopping the SIR exercise.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen MP Asaduddin Owaisi said the SIR exercise was nothing but a "backdoor NRC", referring to the National Register of Citizens. It was a "malafide exercise" of power to selectively disenfranchise people on the basis of religion, he said.

Modi govt. maligning the entire leadership of the national movement: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

The Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, in a united voice, criticised the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during the second day of the debate on the 150th year of the national song, *Vande Mataram*, and said that in its pursuit of defaming the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the Narendra Modi government was maligning the entire leadership of the national movement, including Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi.

Opposition members said the leaders of the BJP were trying to distort history as no one from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) participated in the freedom struggle.

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said the BJP, by trying to malign Nehru, was insulting freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country. "Those who have spoken from the other side have proved... they wanted to be historians, but they have become 'distorions'," Mr. Ramesh said, citing the speech of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the subject. Quoting from a book by the grandnephew of Subhas Chandra Bose and former Trinamool Congress MP Sugata Bose, Mr. Ramesh said that even Rabindranath Tagore had supported a Congress resolution on *Vande Mataram*. "Rajendra Prasad wrote to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on September 28, 1937, raising concerns and worries prevalent in large sections of our political system on *Vande Mataram*, requesting Patel that the Congress Working Committee (CWC) take a stand. Was it appeasement? Are you accusing Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel of appeasement?" Mr. Ramesh said.

"On October 28, 1937, the CWC passed a resolution about *Vande Mataram*... Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Vallabhbhai Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Azad, Acharya Kripalani, G.B. Pant... They were all present," Mr. Ramesh said. "Why is the government making this Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay vs. Tagore?," he added.

The BJP's allegation that *Vande Mataram* was trimmed as part of the Congress's 'appeasement politics' suited the BJP and its predecessor organisations well, he said.

'Source of inspiration'

Vande Mataram is "a source of inspiration" for everyone, BJP MP Ram Chander Jangra said. It is in the Congress's "culture" to oppose the recital of *Vande Mataram*, another ruling party member, Bhagwat Karad, said.

Tharoor rejects Veer Savarkar Award

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following media reports that he had been nominated for the Veer Savarkar International Impact Award-2025, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday said that in the absence of clarifications about its nature and the organisation presenting the award, the question of his accepting it did not arise. The non-governmental organisation High Range Rural Development Society has instituted the award.

"I had clarified that I was neither aware of, nor had accepted, such an award and it was irresponsible on the part of the organisers to announce my name without my having agreed to receive it," he said through his X handle.

PM Modi, Amit Shah, Rahul Gandhi meet to decide Chief Information Commissioner

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a meeting to finalise key appointments in the Central Information Commission (CIC). The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated.

Though there is no official word on what transpired, Mr. Gandhi is said to have given a dissent note on some of the names suggested by the government.

The meeting lasted for more than an hour and a half as the panel had to finalise key appointments in the CIC. Apart from choosing the next Chief Information Commissioner, eight Information Commissioners also have to be appointed. The panel is also said to have discussed names for the vacant posts of Vigilance Commissioners in the Central Vigilance Commission.

> On one side, there is the PM and Home Minister. On the other side, Leader of the Opposition. I have no voice. What they decide is what happens
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

The selection panel meeting comes in the middle of a Lok Sabha debate on electoral reforms, during which Mr. Gandhi had raised questions about the appointment process of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners.

"It is a so-called democratic decision. On one side, there is Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. On the other side, the Leader of the Opposition. I have no voice in that room. What they decide is what happens," Mr. Gandhi said on Tuesday about appointing the CEC.

Assam's BTC backs ST status for six communities

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam's Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) has conditionally agreed to the government granting Scheduled Tribe status to six communities living in the area it governs.

The six communities are Adivasis, Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran, and Tai Ahom. Some of them are considerably populous in the five districts the BTC administers.

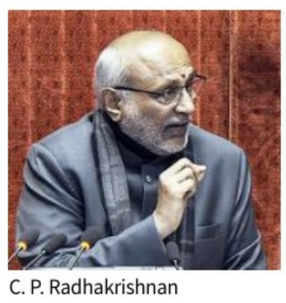
"We have no objection if the six communities are granted ST status, but there should not be any sub-categorisation," Hagrama Mohilary, the head of BTC, said on Wednesday.

Opposition walks out as BJP MP withdraws question on forensics in Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties led by the Congress on Wednesday staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha after a BJP MP withdrew, without explanation, a question he had posed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on enhancing forensic capabilities in the country in view of the new criminal laws.

BJP MP Aditya Prasad had put a question to Mr. Shah asking "whether the government is expanding Central Forensic Science Laboratories to collect evidence as mandated under the new criminal laws? If so, the details thereof." He also wanted to know of "the measures taken to enhance forensic capabilities under the Nirbhaya Fund in light of the new criminal laws; and the steps being taken to systematically store and manage forensic data electronically as mandated under the new criminal laws".



C. P. Radhakrishnan

It was listed as a starred question, which requires Ministers to give an oral answer and allows for supplementary questions. When Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan skipped the question, the Congress's Chief Whip in the Rajya Sabha, Jairam Ramesh, and others sought to know why the question was withdrawn.

"You know the rules. Rule 253 permits a member to withdraw any question as he likes," he said. "You can also withdraw if you want. I cannot interfere in the rights of the members." Unhappy with the response, the Opposition MPs staged a walkout.

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, intends to invite following online Two Part Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB) Tender for the following Works: **Tender No. T25P090661: Augmentation of 20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers with 31.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers along with 11kV switch gear panel board and associated civil works at various 220kV Sub Stations in Delhi Transco Limited on Turnkey basis.**

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-

https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. : 2025_DTL_282652_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-9804-1 01225

Last date for bid submission:- **28.01.2026 at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, intends to invite following online Two Part Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB) Tender for the following Works: **Tender No. T25P090662: Augmentation of 33/11 kV, 1x20 MVA & 1x16 MVA transformer with 2x25 MVA transformer including replacement of outlived 01 no. 11kV switch gear panel board with new 11 kV Panel Board and complete civil works at 220 kV Substation Patparganj alongwith supply of 02 nos. spare 11 kV panel board-Turnkey package.**

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-

https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. : 2025_DTL_282655_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-9805-1 01225

Last date for bid submission:- **29.01.2026 at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD CITY DIVISION AJMER
No.:-EE/City/Ajmer/NIT/2025-26/D Dated

NOTICE INVITING BID No. -24/2025-26
NIB Code No.:- PWD2526A4608

Tender for 01 works are invited from interested bidders up to 06.00 PM on **22th December, 2025**. Other particulars of the bids may he visit on the procurement portal http://{HYPERLINK "http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in"}", {HYPERLINK "http://sppp.raj.nic.in"}" of the State and DIPR departmental website.

The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 273.70 Lacs**.

UBN No.:-
UBN S. No 1:- PWD2526WSOB13826

(Vipin Kumar Jindal)
Executive Engineer
PWD City Divison Ajmer

DIPR/C/18139/2025

कार्यालय नगर विकास न्यास, अलवर (राज.)
क्रमांक :- लेखा/2025/10562 - 74 दिनांक :- 04/12/2025

NOTICE INVITING EOI-10562

Proposals are invited from interested bidders for State sewerage and waste policy 2016 action plan for reuse of treated waste water in rajasthan 2019 के अनुसार Reuse हेतु from 04-12-25 to 24-12-25 2.00 PM and Technical bid will be opened 24-12-25 4.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state and **www.uitalwar.in.** The approximate Value of the procurement is Rs. 15 lakhs.

UBN NO.: UAL2425A0059

Executive Engineer
UIT Alwar

Raj.Samwad/C/25/15386

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC(MAINTENANCE) DEPARTMENT
FORT SAINT GEORGE SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI - 600 009.

NOTIFICATION

Tender Reference No.e-8331/Public(Maintenance) Department /2025

e-Tenders are invited for Mechanized Housekeeping Services of the Entire Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai Building and Main Building, Chief Minister's Office, Chief Minister's Special Cell, Old Cabinet room, Governor's room along with Lawn and road in and around both Buildings, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.
For more information visit **www.tntenders.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Description	Details
1.	Name of the work	Mechanized Housekeeping Services of the Entire Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai Building and Main Building, Chief Minister's Office, Chief Minister's Special Cell, Old Cabinet room, Governor's room along with Lawn and road in and around both Buildings, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.
2.	Contract Period	**Two years**
3.	Closing date and time for Bid submission	**26.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.**
4.	Technical Bid opening date and time	**26.12.2025 at 04.00 P.M.**

REETA HARISH THAKKAR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

DIPR/6562/TENDER/2025

BIKANER TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
Karni Industrial Area, Pugal Road, Bikaner-334004

Ref. No. :- 319 Date :- 09/12/2025

Notice Inviting Bid

Bikaner Technical University invites following bid:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Estimated Cost	NIB No.	UBN No.	Last Date & Time
1.	अकुशल / अर्धकुशल / कुशल / उच्च कुशल योग्यताधारी व्यक्तियों की सेवाऐं उपलब्ध करवाने हेतु ई–बोली आमंत्रण (संख्या 80)	2 Crore	BTU2526 A0013	BTU2526 SLRC00014	30.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM

Others particulars of the bids can be find on the procurement portal **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and Bikaner Technical University website **www.btu.ac.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/15389

Finance Controller

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Journalists who frequently question answers.

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INBRIEF

ED seizes Reliance Infra's 13 bank accounts with ₹54 crore

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized ₹54.82 crore belonging to Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. (R-Infra) under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the agency said on Wednesday. The agency's Special Task Force (Headquarters) seized 13 bank accounts, after its investigation purportedly revealed that R-Infra, through its special purpose vehicles (SPVs), siphoned off public funds from highway construction projects awarded by the National Highways Authority of India. The agency said funds were routed through shell firms in Mumbai using dummy directors, then layered across entities and sent to the UAE as fake diamond imports without any goods or paperwork.

Netanyahu calls PM Modi, briefs on West Asia situation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday spoke with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu and discussed ways to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two nations. Mr. Netanyahu called Mr. Modi and shared views on the situation in West Asia. "PM Modi reaffirmed India's support for efforts towards a just and durable peace in the region, including early implementation of the Gaza Peace Plan," a statement from the PMO said. "The two leaders strongly condemned terrorism and reiterated their zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," it said. PTI

Protected marine areas not part of offshore blocks: govt.

Coastal and biodiversity areas have been notified, says Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences; environmental management plan will be made before mining operation, he says

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Eco shield | The Union government has said that marine protected sites will not be used for mining of minerals

- 23 offshore blocks have been proposed: 13 sand blocks (Kerala), 3 lime mud blocks (Gujarat), 7 polymetallic blocks (Andaman and Nicobar)
- Fisher families and green activities have expressed concerns over depleting marine life stock

- Offshore Areas Mineral Trust has been established with coastal States as members of the Governing Body and Executive Committee of the Trust

> The production plan, *inter alia*, includes an environmental management plan indicating baseline information, impact assessment and mitigation measures
>
> **JITENDRA SINGH**
> Minister of State for Earth Sciences

Offshore blocks in the seas made available to private companies for mining were carved out after excluding regions known to be Marine Protected Areas, the Earth Sciences Ministry said in response to a query in the Lok Sabha by Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday.

Earlier this year, protests had erupted in Kerala – cutting across party lines – over the Centre's proposal in November 2024 to auction 13 blocks in the sea to private companies to mine for construction-grade sand off the coast of Kerala, three blocks of lime mud off the coast of Gujarat, and seven blocks of polymetallic nodules and crust off the Great Nicobar Island in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The protests, however, were concentrated in Kerala where fishermen communities protested that such mining would destroy marine life and deplete fish stocks. The Kerala Assembly passed a resolution in March opposing the auctioning of the block.

Rahul Gandhi, former MP for Wayanad and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to revoke the auction announcement. So far, no companies have been selected from the auction.

The Environment Ministry had notified 130 Marine Protected Areas across the coastal States and islands, and 106 coastal and marine sites have been identified and prioritised as Important Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Areas (ICMBAs) to take care of marine species conservation, Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences, said in a statement.

"The offshore blocks have been carved by excluding these areas. Furthermore, as per the provisions of the Offshore Areas Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2024, no production operations shall be undertaken except in accordance with a production plan. The production plan, *inter alia*, includes an environmental management plan indicating baseline information, impact assessment and mitigation measures," he said.

The Offshore Areas Mineral Trust has been established with coastal States as members of the Governing Body and Executive Committee of the Trust. The funds accruing to the Trust will be used for research, administration, studies and related expenditure with respect to offshore areas and mitigation of any adverse impact that may be caused to the ecology in the offshore area, due to operations undertaken, the statement underlined.

U.S. to start social media vetting for H-1B visa seekers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Some applicants have been told that visa interviews set for next week have been postponed to May

Starting December 15, the United States will expand "online presence review" of all "specialty occupation temporary worker (H-1B) visa applicants and their dependents in the H-4 visa classification", a spokesperson of the U.S. Embassy said on Wednesday.

"In every visa case, we will take the time necessary to ensure an applicant does not pose a risk to the safety and security of the United States and that he or she has credibly established his or her eligibility for the visa sought, including that the applicant intends to engage in activities consistent with the terms of admission," said the spokesperson explaining the reasons behind the scrutiny of the applicants' online presence.

"The Department of State regularly shifts appointments as needed to match resource availability. We will communicate any changes directly to affected visa applicants," the spokesperson further said.

In September, U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a $100,000 annual fee on fresh H-1B visa applications triggering panic among the vast IT workforce of India that works as a bridge between the two countries. The decision was apparently aimed at facilitating employment opportunities for the U.S. citizens in the IT sector.

The latest announcement on vetting social media activities has added another layer to the grant of H1-B visa seekers that is expected to prolong the waiting time for fresh applicants.

Some applicants, whose visa appointments were scheduled next week, have received emails from U.S. immigration authorities informing them that their interviews are being pushed back as late as May next year. The rescheduling is for all applicants previously given appointments from December 15 onwards.

The exact number of applicants impacted by the delays in the visa interviews is not immediately known.

(With PTI inputs)

Kin of witness in Shahjahan case killed in accident

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

One of the prime witnesses in the cases against suspended Trinamool Congress leader Sheikh Shahjahan was injured when a truck collided with his car in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Wednesday.

The witness, Bholanath Ghosh, lost his son Satyajit, 32, and the driver Sahanur Molla, 27, in the accident.

Mr. Ghosh had left his residence in Sandeshkhali and was headed for Basirhat sub-divisional court to appear in connection with one of the many cases that Shahjahan, the jailed Trinamool Congress leader, had filed against him.

Mr. Ghosh called the accident a "murder". The family members alleged that Shahjahan's aides plotted the attack.

'Government is committed to welfare of journalists'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

L. Murugan

The Government of India is committed to the welfare of journalists, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan said in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

In a response to questions from Lok Sabha members Arvind Ganpat Sawant and Sanjay Uttamrao Deshmukh, Mr. Murugan said the Central Bureau of Communications (CBC) issued print media advertisements transparently, and had recently increased advertising rates by up to 26%. "Nominations to the committees of the CBC, PIB (Press Information Bureau), and Press Council of India are made as per the corresponding policy guidelines," he said.

Journalists accredited with the PIB and their family members are covered under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) facilities across the country.

"The government implements the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS) to provide one-time ex gratia relief to journalists/media personnel or their families in cases of extreme hardship due to the death of a journalist. Relief is also extended to journalists who suffer from permanent disability or are diagnosed with major listed ailments. Financial support is further provided to journalists who face serious injuries due to accidents requiring hospitalisation," Mr. Murugan said.

Journalists accredited with the PIB or with the governments of States or Union Territories, as well as non-accredited journalists, are covered under this scheme, he said. "Under the JWS scheme, the government has provided financial assistance to 402 journalists and their families from 2014-15 to 2024-25," he said.

On the representation received from "Manyata Praapt Patrakar Kalyan Samiti, Delhi", the Minister said newspapers in India were registered under the Press and Periodicals Registration Act, 2023, and its 2024 Rules, with the Press Seva Portal providing an accessible online system for registration.

Deepavali enters intangible heritage list

UNESCO says it strengthens social bonds, supports traditional crafts, reinforces values of generosity; PM says people are thrilled at the honour; Minister calls it a moment of national pride

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Deepavali, India's festival of lights, was on Wednesday inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The inscription was adopted in the presence of Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, senior officials, and delegates from 194 member states, international experts, and representatives of UNESCO's global network, at an event held at the Red Fort here.

The announcement came during the 20th session of the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee.

Living heritage: Deepavali thrives through the contributions of potters crafting traditional earthen lamps. VIJAY SONEJI

UNESCO's inscription acknowledges Deepavali as a living heritage that strengthens social bonds, supports traditional craftsmanship, reinforces values of generosity and well-being, and contributes meaningfully to several Sustainable Development Goals.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said people in India and around the world were thrilled at the UNESCO honour. "For us, Deepavali is very closely linked to our culture and ethos. It is the soul of our civilisation. The addition of Deepavali to the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List will contribute to the festival's global popularity even further," he said in a post on X.

Addressing the international delegates at the event, the Union Minister said the inscription marks a moment of immense pride for India and for communities across the world who keep alive the timeless spirit of Deepavali.

Highlighting the people-centric nature of the festival, he emphasised that Deepavali thrives through the contributions of millions, including potters crafting traditional 'diyas' (earthen lamps), artisans preparing festive decor, farmers, sweet-makers, priests, and households that uphold age-old customs.

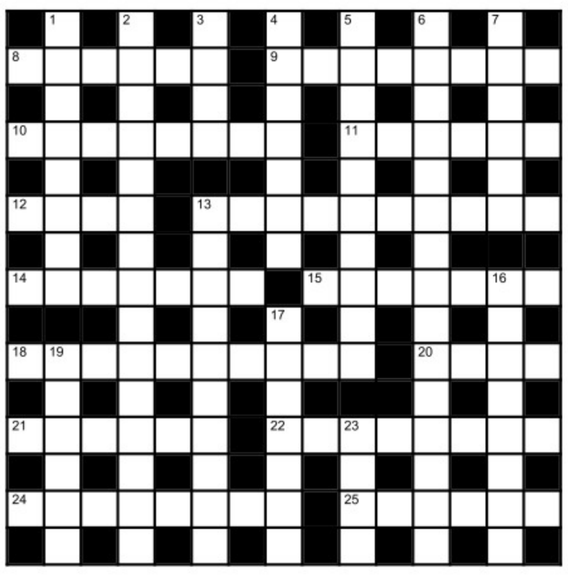
(With PTI inputs)

TH CROSSWORD + 14662

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Adult male, single, disheartened bachelor, a small invisible creature (6)
9 Likely research about odd bits of tax bill (8)
10 Love to play an instrument used to check hearing (8)
11 Princess and love stifled by cold and abject stupidity (6)
12 Carol discarded last of the symbol of virginity (4)
13 Lacking power, small, having no work and stubborn! (10)
14 Charm southern maiden exuded, chasing single man from Rome (7)
15 A Hindu prince could be French one! (7)
18 Operation by media that is externally very harsh (10)
20 Back to head, pain for every one (4)
21 Mostly worried about new India's game (6)
22 GOP shift shook present establishment (4,4)
24 American cement in tariff dispute (8)
25 Bid to provoke leader of Catholics, leaving for Vatican (6)

Down

1 American crossed borders of Hungary with case of scarlet quartz (8)
2 Rubbish proposal! None runs for you or me, say (8,7)
3 Peculiar hinges around a wooden strip on lower part of wall (4)
4 Kiwi organising party with ex! (7)
5 Exclaim vehemently if English overact at sea (10)
6 Bipolar men's anxiety after losing power to Democrat revealing shifting of vote (5-10)
7 Bird of prey, pushing down a small stoppered bottle (6)
13 It uses sand blasting alone (10)
16 Beginning with popular chocolate? No? Pass! (8)
17 Restless when returning to get in for a day (7)
19 Novelist name on essay or verse (6)
23 Weak run away and stop working (4)

SUDOKU

9					5	6		
		8			6		3	
							2	1
				2			6	8
3		4	5		1	2		7
8	1			6				
2	8							
	4		1			3		
		7	9					2

No.SS6727 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Z	I	L	C	H		Y	O	U
E		A		E		O		P
M	A	C	A	D	A	M		E
S		T		G		K		N
T	R	A	D	E	W	I	N	D
V		T				P		
O	V	E	R	P	O	P	U	L
S				O		U		E
	L	I	B	R	A	R	I	A
H		N		T				S
A	I	S	L	E		D	E	E
Y		U		N		A		B
M	E	L	O	D	I	C		A
O		A		E		H		C
W	O	R	L	D	B	A	N	K

T	U	B	E	R	S			
	L		M		E			
E	A	T	A	B	L	E		
	I		A		T			
M	A	R	S	H				
	A		G		E			
U	L	A	T	I	O	N		
E	E				A			
S	H	I	P	S				
	S			N	T			
D	E	E	P	S	O	U	T	H
B		I		T	E			
A	P	O	G	E	A	N		
U		R		I				
X	H	O	S	A				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	6	7	1	9	4	8	5
8	7	4	3	6	5	1	2	9
5	9	1	4	8	2	3	6	7
7	1	3	9	4	8	2	5	6
6	4	2	5	7	3	9	1	8
9	5	8	1	2	6	7	3	4
3	2	5	6	9	4	8	7	1
1	8	9	2	5	7	6	4	3
4	6	7	8	3	1	5	9	2

FAITH

Different avataras visualised

Thirumangai Azhvar has sung verses in praise of Pundareekaksha, the deity of Thiruvellarai temple. In each verse he praises a different avatara of Lord Narayana, said K.B. Devarajan in a discourse. Thirumangai Azhvar is known to give descriptions of the scenery too, and in his Thiruvellarai pasurams, he speaks of many kinds of flowers. In the first verse, he praises the Lord of Thiruvellarai as Parasurama, who, wielding an axe, avenged the insult to his father. He says a pleasant southern wind in Thiruvellarai carries the fragrance of jasmine flowers through the mango groves. He prays that the Lord should show him the path he needs to take to reach Him.

In the next verse, he sees the Lord as Hayagriva, the avatara where the Lord had a horse head. Brahma lost the Vedas, and the Lord in His Hayagriva avatara, rescued the Vedas from the asuras Madhu and Kaitabha. He squashed the asuras to death on His thighs. He then taught Brahma the Vedas again, so that creation could resume. In this verse, Thirumangai Azhvar talks of the pleasing smell of kurukathi flowers. The next avatara is Narasimha, and here Thirumangai Azhvar describes the fish in the pond in Thiruvellarai. They jump over the lotus flowers in the pond, and here it is the fragrance of the lotus flowers that predominates. In the next verse, Thirumangai Azhvar compares Pundreekaksha of Thiruvellarai to another archa murthy, namely Srinivasa of Tirumala. He sees both archa murthys as Krishna. Here he describes birds that mistake the tender shoots of the mango trees for the ripe fruits, and taste them. Finding them bitter, they fly away and suck the sweet juice of jackfruits.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,391	-0.32
US Dollar	89.94	-0.07
Gold	1,32,400	0.60
Brent oil	61.42	-0.85

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2211.60	-33.60
Adani Ports	1498.10	0.90
Apollo Hosp	7018.50	-72.50
Asian Paints	2804.50	8.50
Axis Bank	1278.60	2.70
Bajaj Auto	8991.00	30.00
Bajaj Finserv	2065.80	-3.70
Bajaj Finance	1010.30	-6.40
Bharat Elec	387.35	-2.10
Bharti Airtel	2067.00	-22.70
Cipla	1490.90	0.30
Coal India	382.15	2.80
Dr Reddys Lab	1250.80	4.60
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7228.50	105.50
Eternal Ltd.	283.25	-8.45
Grasim Ind	2746.80	0.80
HCL Tech	1666.00	8.40
HDFC Bank	989.80	-7.30
HDFC Life	771.05	8.15
Hindalco	821.75	8.85
Hind Unilever	2301.70	-4.80
ICICI Bank	1363.60	-11.60
IntGlobeAvi	4805.50	-162.00
Infosys	1584.80	-14.20
ITC	403.15	2.10
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	290.85	-2.35
JSW Steel	1096.80	-11.00
Kotak Bank	2129.50	1.80
L&T	3991.30	-6.20
M&M	3630.00	-5.90
Maruti Suzuki	16019.00	-1.00
Max Healthcare	1077.10	2.40
NestleIndia	1209.30	-6.50
NTPC	321.60	1.75
ONGC	239.29	-0.55
PowerGrid Corp	265.50	0.95
Reliance Ind	1536.90	7.50
SBI Life	2014.50	8.30
State Bank	959.75	0.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	837.25	-9.45
Sun Pharma	1785.50	9.50
TataConsumerProduct	1140.10	-6.60
Tata Steel	162.23	1.56
TCS	3189.20	-19.10
Tech Mahindra	1550.80	-10.80
Titan	3845.70	-3.30
Tata Motors PV	343.40	-1.30
Trent Ltd.	4018.30	-67.10
UltraTech Cement	11317.00	-97.00
Wipro	257.98	0.57

Amazon to invest $35 billion in India

Tech giant says the amount will cement its status as the single largest foreign direct investor into India and will be spent on all its verticals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Big billion days: Amazon has already invested more than $40 billion in India since it entered the country. REUTERS

Amazon Inc. announced on Wednesday that it would invest $35 billion in India in the coming years until 2030. The investment would be infused into all of Amazon's operations in India, spanning its retail operations and its cloud and AI wings, Amazon Web Services. The firm made the announcement at its annual India event, Smbhav.

The investment comes a day after Microsoft Corp. committed a $17.5 billion investment, much of it targeted at data centre and AI infrastructure build out, which will also likely be the case for Amazon, which is already India's largest foreign direct investor.

This investment comes as tech firms like Amazon are rapidly scaling up AI capacities around the world, and deploy eye-watering sums to that end in establishing data centres. It also comes as Amazon attempts to enter the crowded quick-commerce space, where BlinkIt, Zepto and Swiggy have established important positions.

While Amazon has already invested more than $40 billion in India since it entered the country, it has encountered pushback from large retailer groups, earning it a cold shoulder, if not outright hostility at times, from the government.

While Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's investment was welcomed with a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, no official statement has been forthcoming as of press time on Wednesday from the government's side responding to the announcement.

Amazon said it would create 3.8 million "direct, indirect, induced and seasonal jobs" across India by 2030. The firm said that it was the single largest individual enabler of export growth in the country, citing a report by Keystone Research.

"These investments are strategically aligned with India's national priorities and will focus on expanding AI capabilities, enhancing logistics infrastructure, supporting small business growth and creating jobs," Amazon said.

PM Modi, Goyal expected to travel to Oman next week to sign free trade pact

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi with Sultan of Oman, Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said. FILE PHOTO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal are expected to travel to Oman next week to sign a free trade agreement with that country, sources who are also part of the delegation confirmed on Wednesday. The exact dates and the composition of the delegation will be confirmed after the Union Cabinet gives its approval.

India and Oman began negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in November 2023. Following three rounds of negotiations, between November 2023 and March 2024, both sides reached an agreement on all aspects of the CEPA, including text and market access offers, the Department of Commerce said in a separate release.

A Cabinet proposal regarding the deal, submitted in March 2024, was deferred at the time, prompting further renegotiations. The fourth round was held in September 2024 and the fifth in January 13-14, 2025, both of which focused on revised offers. According to the press note, both sides are now in the process of securing internal approvals for the final deal. However, according to sources, this is more of a formality, with the deal having been finalised and the signing set to happen soon. "The Prime Minister and Commerce Minister are set to visit Oman next week, maybe on December 17-18, to sign the deal," a member of the likely delegation told *The Hindu*. "The exact dates of the trip and composition of delegation will be finalised after the Cabinet gives its approval, which is a formality at this point."

Speaking to reporters in Jaipur, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal confirmed that talks with Oman are in "their final stages" for a free trade agreement. He added that New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay is visiting New Delhi on Friday for negotiation on an FTA.

"With them, too, our talks have reached the last stages," Mr. Goyal said.

On the FTA with the EU, he said following the visit of the delegation from the EU over the last eight days and of Maroš Šefčovič, EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security over the last two days, the broad outline of the deal has been finalised.

INBRIEF

Bank of India raises ₹2,500 cr. through Tier II bonds

Bank of India said it has raised Basel III compliant Tier II bonds of ₹2,500 crore at the rate of 7.28% per annum through NSE Electronic Bidding Provider Platform. The base issue size was ₹1,000 crore with a green shoe option of ₹1,500 crore. The bank said it received a total of 68 bids amounting to ₹4,982 crore. Out of this, it accepted 29 bids amounting to ₹2,500 crore. The Tier II capital it raised is for augmenting its overall capital, the lender said.

Brookfield India REIT raises ₹3,500 crore through QIP

Brookfield India Real Estate Trust (Brookfield India REIT) said it has raised ₹3,500 crore ($390 million) through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) of units. The placement was oversubscribed by more than three times. It received strong participation from existing and new investors such as SBI Mutual Fund, PPFAS, Kotak Mutual Fund, Birla Mutual Fund, and Nippon Mutual Fund, UTI Mutual Fund, LIC, IFC, HDFC Life, and 360 One, the entity said.

Propel Industries to invest ₹300 crore in EV segment

Propel Industries said it plans to invest ₹300 crore in the next three years to increase production of electric vehicles for the mining sector. "Of the total annual turnover of ₹1,750 crore, nearly ₹175 crore comes from electric vehicles. We expect the revenue from EV trucks to double this year with higher volume of vehicles sold. We sell about 230 vehicles a year and it is expected to grow to 250 or 300 this fiscal," MD V. Senthilkumar said.

House panel for speedy coal block clearances

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Efforts must be made to reduce the average time it takes to accord forest and environmental clearances to coal blocks, the Parliament's standing committee on coal, mines and steel stated in their latest report tabled Wednesday. The committee sought they be appraised of the probable reasons for the same. For context, the committee observed that it takes 15 to 18 months for a public-sector enterprise to receive an environment clearance to mine a coal block, compared with about 26 months for a commercial coal block of a private sector entity.

The committee noted that this extends to forest approvals as well.

It said that while public-sector companies have been observed to receive clearances between 24 to 30 months, that stretched to a wait of about 34 months for their private sector peers.

Starlink executive Dreyer meets Scindia as service yet to start

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

SpaceX logo is seen.

A senior executive at Elon Musk-owned satellite Internet firm Starlink, a subsidiary of SpaceX, met Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia, the latter posted on X.

This is at least the third time Lauren Dreyer, senior vice-president for business operations has visited India in recent months.

Starlink has already secured key approvals and needs to start services. It obtained regulatory clearances from IN-SPAC and reportedly demonstrated its compliance with law enforcement requirements.

Earlier this month, Starlink's website showed a monthly price of ₹8,600 for its residential plan. The firm said this was a "dummy" price that the website's developers had accidentally posted.

TCS snaps up Coastal Cloud for $700 mn

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) said it has signed a pact to acquire 100% stake in Coastal Cloud, a U.S.-based Salesforce Summit firm that specialises in Salesforce Consulting, for all-cash consideration of $700 million.

Founded in 2012, Coastal Cloud is a multi-cloud Salesforce consulting firm, specialising in enterprise-scale transformations. They bring AI-led advisory and business consulting capabilities to help customers re-imagine sales, service, marketing, revenue, CPQ, commerce and Salesforce Data Cloud.

As a Salesforce Summit Partner, Coastal Cloud excels in building deep customer relationships.

IndusInd Bank chairman Mehta said to step down in January

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

IndusInd Bank chairman Sunil Mehta is learnt to have decided not to seek reappointment after his tenure ends in January as part of the lender's strategy to revamp the top deck.

The bank had undergone a leadership overhaul following the unearthing of nearly ₹2,000-crore derivative losses on account of governance and accounting lapses. Mr. Mehta had joined the bank in January 2023.

A branch of IndusInd Bank.

In a statement, IndusInd Bank said, "The bank's chairman and the board remain fully committed to leading the organisation in line with its strategic priorities. The bank will continue to make necessary disclosures in accordance with applicable laws and at the appropriate stage."

Tata Steel board eyes scaling up operations

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Steel will prioritise investments for growth.

Tata Steel has announced capacity expansion, acquisition and a tie-up among others to scale operations in the future.

The firm will prioritise investments in volume growth, value added downstream portfolio, in mining assets and infrastructure to serve the needs of Indian business and in new-to-the-world low-carbon, low capital intensity process technologies for sustainable steel making.

The board approved in-principle 4.8 MTPA capacity expansion at Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. which would enable Tata Steel to further expand the long-product portfolio, especially in the highly-profitable retail space and capitalise on construction sector growth in India via new products and solutions.

To further enhance finished steel capacity in flat products, the board approved funds required to undertake design and engineering work to set up a 2.5 million tonne thin slab caster and rolling facilities at Tata Steel Meramandali.

For expanding downstream facilities across various product lines, it approved a plan to set up a 0.7 MTPA hot rolled pickling and galvanizing line (HRPGL) at its existing cold rolling complex in Tarapur, Maharashtra.

Tata Steel said it signed a MoU with Lloyd Metals & Energy Ltd. to partner in the areas of iron ore mining and logistics.

The company also signed agreements to buy 50.01% stake in Thriveni Pellets Private Ltd. (TPPL).

U.S. company Virtusa buys SmartSoC Solutions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Virtusa Corporation, a Massachusetts-based product and platform engineering services firm, announced the acquisition of SmartSoC Solutions, a firm which offers semiconductor engineering, integrated circuit (IC) design services and automotive solutions. It did not disclose the size of the deal.

Bengaluru firm SmartSoC Solutions has more than 1,400 engineers with expertise in VLSI, physical design and embedded software.

As per a communique, this acquisition marks a pivotal moment for Virtusa and will immediately expand its industry portfolio to include the high-growth semiconductor sector and completing its full-stack, end-to-end service capabilities, spanning the entire digital technology ecosystem from the chip to the network, cloud and application layer.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
Uttarakhand Disaster Preparedness & Resilience Project (U-PREPARE)
5th Floor, USDMA Building, 36, IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, DEHRADUN
Website: www.u-prepare.com; E-Mail procurement.uprepare@gmail.com

Ref. No.: 544/A-23/RFB/U-PREPARE/2025 Date: 10/12/2025

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the UPREPARE and intends to apply part of the proceeds for following package of Procurement of IT Equipment for U-PREPARE. Hence Bids are invited for the following Package and the RFB documents of which, can be downloaded from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in**. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be downloaded by interested eligible bidders from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in** from **16/12/2025**.

S.No.	Package No.	Name of Package
1	01/GOODS/PMU/UPREPARE/2025	Procurement of IT Equipment for U-PREPARE

Note:- 1. The corrigendum for the above packages will be uploaded on website **www.uktenders.gov.in** & **www.u-prepare.com**
2. Email id **procurement.uprepare@gmail.com** may be contacted for any information related to the bids.

Program Director

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SECONDARY STEEL TECHNOLOGY
(Established by Ministry of Steel, Government of India)
Post Box No. 92, G T Road, Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab.

TENDER NOTICE NO. NISST/2/2025-26

NISST invites sealed tenders from accredited auditor and experienced agencies for Measuring Baseline Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (in tons of CO_2e) & determine the Emission Intensity (tons of CO_2e per ton of product) of Steel Plants in India.

The selected agency/ agencies will collect data from Secondary Steel Industries (SSIs) situated in all the States of the country on electric energy, thermal energy, input material use, finished products along with embedded carbon of input material used in the production of intermediate / finished products. List of the units is annexed in the detailed tender document. For eligibility criteria and detailed terms & conditions, please refer to our website **www.nisst.org.**

Sealed tenders superscribing **"TENDER FOR BASELINE GHG EMISSION MEASUREMENT"** may reach **Sr. Dy. Director (F&A)/(P&A), National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology, Post Box No. 92, G.T. Road, Sirhind Side, Mandi Gobindgarh** latest by **31/12/2025 before 03:00 P.M** along with the complete tender document. Tenders will be opened at 4:00 PM on the same day.

Sr. Dy. Director (F&A) / (P&A)

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
REWIND 2025
TRIVIA QUIZ
DAY 06

1. Which Indian composer premiered the Western classical symphony Valiant in London in March 2025?
2. The official mascot for the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025 is named after which native breed of cattle from Tamil Nadu?
3. In September 2025, which institution launched 'Never Alone', an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven comprehensive mental health and wellness app for students to tackle stress?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit
bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz
take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. David Beckham
2. Coldplay
3. Arattai

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Mohammed Faheem T.P, Malappuram | 2. Manisha Sinha, Patna | 3. Srinithi Thirupathi, Madurai

KATHMANDU

Nepal govt., Gen Z ink 10-point pact on reforms, anti-graft measures

AP

Nepal's interim government and Gen Z representatives on Wednesday signed a 10-point agreement aimed at electoral reforms, good governance, and probing rights violations during the recent youth-led protests that led to the fall of the K.P. Sharma Oli-led dispensation. PTI

BRUSSELS

EU members to cut emissions by 90% by 2040 from 1990 levels

REUTERS

The European Union has reached an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040 from 1990 levels, involving the purchase of foreign carbon credits to cover 5% of the cuts, the European Parliament said on Wednesday. The deal goes beyond most other economies' emissions-cutting pledges. REUTERS

BANGKOK

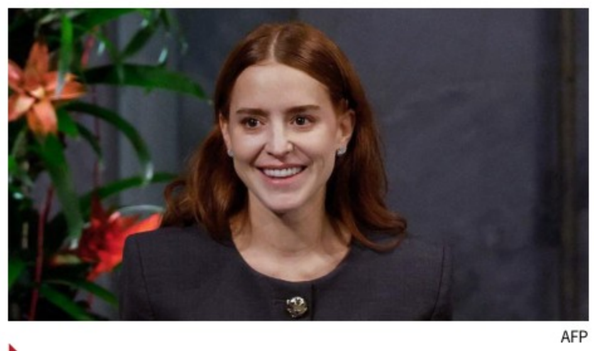
Trump says he will make telephone call to stop Thai-Cambodia fighting

AP

Thailand and Cambodia accused each other of targeting civilians in border attacks on Wednesday, as U.S. President Donald Trump said he would make a telephone call to stop the fighting and salvage a ceasefire he brokered in July. Meanwhile, Bangkok said that negotiations should not be initiated by a third party. REUTERS

OSLO

Machado's daughter Ana accepts Nobel Peace Prize in her absence



AFP

Venezuelan Opposition leader María Corina Machado's daughter, Ana Corina Sosa, accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in Norway on her mother's behalf on Wednesday, and said in a speech written by Ms. Machado that Venezuela shows the world "we must be willing to fight for freedom". AP

'Ukraine can hold elections if security is ensured'

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukrainian officials were expected to hand their latest peace proposals to United States negotiators on Wednesday, according to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who also said Ukraine would be ready for elections within three months if partners can guarantee a safe vote during wartime and if its electoral law can be altered.

Mr. Zelenskyy told reporters late Tuesday that he is "ready" for an election but would need help from the U.S. and possibly Europe to ensure security for a vote to happen. He suggested that Ukraine could be ready to hold balloting in 60 to 90 days if that proviso is met.

Trump slams Europe and pushes Kyiv on elections

Most European nations are decaying, said the U.S. President; on Ukraine, he said European leaders talk but don't produce; he added that Ukraine's leadership is using the war not to hold elections

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump deepened his rift with Europe in an interview published on Tuesday, calling it "decaying" and blasting key allies as "weak" over immigration and Ukraine.

Speaking to *Politico*, Mr. Trump also called on Ukraine to hold elections despite Russia's invasion and questioned whether the country is truly democratic under President Volodmyr Zelenskyy.

Mr. Trump doubled down on his recent extraordinary criticisms of Europe, following the release of the new U.S. national security strategy last week that recycled far-right tropes as it warned of civilisational decline on the continent.

Emmanuel Macron, Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Keir Starmer take part in a meeting of European leaders in Kyiv in May. AFP

"Most European nations, they're, they're decaying. They're decaying," Mr. Trump said. The 79-year-old said that Europe's policies on migrants were a "disaster". "They don't want to send them back to where they came from," Mr. Trump said.

The U.S. President then criticised Europe's role in resolving the war between Russia and Ukraine, saying: "They talk but they don't produce. And the war just keeps going on and on."

'Not a democracy'

"I think it's an important time to hold an election [in Ukraine]. They're using war not to hold an election." Mr. Trump said. "You know, they talk about a democracy, but it gets to a point where it's not a democracy any more."

Australia's social media ban for under-16s takes effect

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese welcomed a world-first social media ban for children younger than 16 that took effect on Wednesday as families taking back power from tech giants but warned the implementation would be difficult.

"This is the day when Australian families are taking back power from these big tech companies and they're asserting the right of kids to be kids and for parents to have greater peace of mind," Mr. Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, YouTube and Twitch face fines of up to 49.5 million Australian dollars ($32.9 million) from Wednesday if they fail to take reasonable steps to remove the accounts of Australian children younger than 16.

Anthony Albanese

The ban will be enforced by Australia's eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant. She said the platforms already had the technology and personal data about their users to enforce the age restriction with precision. She would send the 10 targeted platforms on Thursday notices demanding information on how the age restriction was being implemented and how many accounts had been closed.

'Lesser safety'

Meanwhile, tech giant Meta said the ban would send youngsters to less regulated platforms, making them less safe. "We've consistently raised concerns that this poorly developed law could push teens to less regulated platforms or apps. We're now seeing those concerns become reality," it said.

Lesser known chat and image sharing apps Lemon8 and yope, which are not currently listed in the social media ban, have shot up the download charts in Australia.

Two student advisers of Bangladesh's interim govt. resign ahead of elections

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Two prominent student advisers of the interim government of Bangladesh - Mahfuj Alam and Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan - tendered their resignations on Wednesday, ahead of announcement of election schedule in the country. Nahid Islam, another leading student adviser in the Yunus-led government, had resigned in February, to lead the National Citizen Party, which plans to contest the election.

Mr. Bhuiyan was the adviser in charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports as well as the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, while Mahfuj Alam served as adviser to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Earlier this year, in a Facebook post, Mr. Bhuiyan had apologised for his father obtaining a contractor's licence. He acknowledged that his father's business had created a "conflict of interest" for him as a member of the interim government.

More recently, Mr. Alam courted controversy for criticising the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JEI).

At a meeting in September, Mr. Alam alleged that BNP and Jamaat had supported the uprising against Sheikh Hasina and had moved quickly to place their supporters in key positions following Ms. Hasina's ouster.

Military drone attack on Sudan oil field kills dozens of people

Associated Press
JUBA

Dozens of people were killed on Tuesday evening in a drone strike near Sudan's largest oil processing facility carried out by the Sudanese Armed Forces, according to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The RSF, which has been fighting Sudan's military since 2023, said the oil field in Heglig was attacked a day after the RSF seized the facility near the border with South Sudan.

Both sides said that the exact number of dead and wounded could not immediately be confirmed. Local news outlets reported seven tribal leaders and "dozens" of RSF troopers were killed.

South Sudanese soldiers were among the dead in the attack by a Turkish-made Akinci drone, according to the RSF, which condemned the attack as a violation of international law.

Rapid Support Forces condemned the attack as a violation of international law

Two Sudanese military officials confirmed the drone strike, which they said targeted RSF fighters.

Three soldiers killed

The government of South Sudan's Unity State confirmed three South Sudanese soldiers were killed. A South Sudanese solider, who witnessed the strike and spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak, estimated 25 people were killed.

South Sudanese commander Johnson Olony said in a statement that South Sudanese forces may have been sent to secure Heglig after its capture.

South Sudan relies entirely on Sudanese pipelines to export its oil and has seen production repeatedly disrupted by the conflict.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for the following work with Spec. No: **PMM42-e-51/2025. Name of the Work:** Supply, Erection/ Stringing and Commissioning of OPGW cable and associated equipment under PSD funding for providing reliable communication system upto 132 kV substations in three Lots (Zone wise). Date & Time of availability of Tender on e-procurement platform i.e., **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** on **10.12.2025 @ 17:00Hrs**. Contact No. **Dy.EE: 8332949383, 9440817062**.
DIPR 4657PP/CL, Dt: 10/12/2025 **Sd/- Chief Engineer/Transmission**

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BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)
BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders against **Enquiry No. BESCOM/2025-26/IND0157** for **"Design, Manufacturing and Supply of 250 kVA Star-2 (5-Star) Rated 11kV/433V, 3Phase, 50Cycle, Aluminium Wound, CRGO Core Cable Entry type Distribution Transformers as per Tender Specification, GTP and Drawing."**
Bid Documents available : 11.12.2025. **Last date for Bid Submission :** 09.01.2026, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document :** 12.01.2026, 17:15 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
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Subramania Bharati was more than the foremost poet of Tamil Nadu. He was also a sharp commentator on the social and political issues of his time. This book brings together all of his writings in *The Hindu* during his exile in Pondicherry.

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SAME GOAL

Jitesh plays down the talk of a 'competition' with Samson

PTI

Jitesh Sharma played down the 'competition' with Sanju Samson in the squad, saying it only brings out his "A-game", strengthening the side. "He (Sanju) is a great player. If you have to compete against him and play shoulder to shoulder, then I have to bring my A-game. I think we both are trying to play for India," he said.

NEED TO IMPROVE

Prince pulls up SA batters after team folds for 74 in first T20I

PTI

South Africa batting coach Ashwell Prince said the visitors simply failed to answer the questions posed by India's "formidable" bowlers while being dismissed for 74 in the first T20I. "Obviously after a batting performance as such, that is one department that we will have to improve on quickly," lamented Prince.

MOVING UP

Kohli rises to second in ODI rankings, closes the gap on Rohit

R. RAGU

India's Virat Kohli's push to regain the top ODI batter spot received a boost as he moved up to second place in the latest ICC rankings. Kohli hasn't held the No.1 position for ODI batters since he was displaced by Pakistan's Babar Azam in April 2021. He gained two places and is ranked behind teammate Rohit Sharma.

CAPTAIN RETURNS

Cummins included in Australia squad for third Ashes Test

AP

Australia captain Pat Cummins is in line to return for the third Ashes Test against England in Adelaide after being named in a 15-man squad on Wednesday. **The squad:** Cummins (Capt.), Boland, Carey, Doggett, Green, Head, Inglis, Khawaja, Labuschagne,Lyon, Neser, Smith, Starc, Weatherald, Webster.

Strong, stronger: The Men In Blue have the wherewithal to reprise the impressive display they put up in Cuttack. AP

India will look to press home the advantage

Focus on skipper Suryakumar and Gill as they hope to score big; Proteas will aim to improve their batting effort; bowlers' performance in the death overs, a concern for the visitors

SA IN INDIA

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NEW CHANDIGARH

The objects in the mirror are closer than they appear: India and South Africa come into Thursday's second T20I with barely any scope to reflect on Tuesday's exploits.

A byproduct of the rapid-fire scheduling is that both teams, having only arrived in India's first planned city, will have little time to prepare at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium.

While the Men in Blue will do well not to rest on their laurels after the 101-run triumph in Cuttack, the Proteas will be relieved to get back into the thick of things without having to dwell on the silly mistakes made at the Barabati Stadium.

South Africa's biggest worry will be the manner in which its batting capitulated in the 176-run chase. From Quinton de Kock being caught by Abhishek Sharma at second slip off the second ball to Lutho Sipamla's edge signalling the premature end of the South African innings (bundled out for 74 in 12.3 overs), nothing went right for the Protean willow-wielders.

Their attacking intent proved misplaced on a pitch that gave just enough assistance for the tweakers and speedsters.

If they are to pose a stiffer challenge against the well-rounded Indian bowling line-up, better sense needs to prevail. The South African bowlers, on the other hand, held their own, especially in the first half of the Indian innings before a marauding Hardik Pandya (59 n.o., 28b) changed the course of the essay and the match.

Captain's worry

Skipper Aiden Markram will be pleased with the returns of opening bowlers Lungi Ngidi (4-0-31-3) and Marco Jansen (4-0-23-0), though the death bowling showcased by Sipamla (4-0-38-2) and Anrich Nortje (4-0-41-0) would have left the captain concerned.

The think-tank may well consider bringing in one or both of pacer Corbin Bosch and spinner George Linde, with their big-hitting prowess being a welcome bonus for the under-confident batting order.

The Men in Blue, however, will not be entertaining any thoughts of tinkering with their on-a-high bowling attack.

Whether to pick the extra pacer in Arshdeep Singh or to go with the third spinner in Kuldeep Yadav was the only brain-teaser ahead of the opening fixture.

India, after fielding fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep together in a home T20I for the first time, condemned the South Africans to their lowest score in the format, with each of the six bowlers scalping at least one wicket. They deserve to have another go at the visitors after such a spectacular show.

In the batting department, India's biggest wish will be for Suryakumar Yadav and Shubman Gill to score some big runs. The captain has not had a T20I half-century since October 12, 2024. Not only has Gill failed to breach the landmark in the format since July 13, 2024, but the opener has not hit two sixes in an innings since his unbeaten 58 against Zimbabwe in Harare.

The skipper and his deputy will have to set the record straight in these nine matches before India begins its T20 World Cup title defence.

February 7, 2026 is closer than it appears.

The teams (from):
India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakaravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana and Washington Sundar.
South Africa: Aiden Markram (Capt.), David Miller, Reeza Hendricks, Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, George Linde, Keshav Maharaj, Marco Jansen, Donovan Ferreira (wk), Quinton de Kock (wk), Tristan Stubbs, Anrich Nortje, Lungi Ngidi, Lutho Sipamla and Ottneil Baartman.
Match starts at 7 p.m.

Germany retains the title; India pips Argentina for bronze

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Spain's Andres Medina fluffed his chance in the shootout, and bent down in agony before being consoled by his teammates.

On the other hand, it was ecstasy for Germany as teammates rushed to the goalkeeper Jasper Ditzer to celebrate.

It was not the usual ruthless Germany one witnessed, rather a gritty one.

The defending champion survived several anxious moments in the regulation time (1-1) and then held its nerve in the shootout to win the final 3-2 to clinch its eighth title in the FIH junior men's hockey World Cup at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Wednesday.

Early misses

The shootout saw a nervy start as both Germany (Jonas von Gersum) and Spain (Pere Amat) missed.

After German player's Justus Warweg's shot was saved by keeper Diego Palomero, Spain scored through Mario Mena to go 1-0 ahead. Germany equalised through Benedict Geyer.

With the score reading 2-2, Ben Hasbach scored for Germany, and when Medina missed his, it was curtains for Spain.

Earlier, India came roaring back from being 0-2 to script a sensational 4-2 victory over Argentina to bag the bronze medal.

Stirring fightback

After defeats in the third-place playoff in 2005, 2021 and 2023, this marked India's first bronze medal in the competition and its first medal since the gold in 2016.

Incidentally, all of India's goals came in the fourth quarter of which three were from penalty corners.

India scored two brilliantly deflected penalty corner goals; one by Ankit Pal and the other by Manmeet Singh.

The third goal, that too off a PC was a direct drag-flick conversion by Anmol Ekka.

India head coach P. R. Sreejesh said the boys handled the pressure well.

"I felt like [we were] a different team in the fourth quarter. It's a process. You need to trust your process first. I told these guys is, if you can survive this pressure, this is the base.

"It was not easy for them. But they won the challenge.

"Because this is what is going to happen in the future. The win happened because we did our homework. We planned everything. We had enough meetings."

Memorable moments: The Indian team, above, brought cheer to the home fans by claiming the bronze while Germany continued its reign with a thrilling victory in the final. R. RAGU

It was India's maiden bronze medal in the competition and the first medal since the gold in 2016
With the exciting win, Germany now has eight titles

The results:
Final: Germany 1 (Justus Warweg 25) drew with Spain 1 (Nicolas Mustaros 32). Germany won the shoootout 3-2.
Bronze medal match : India 4 (Ankit Pal 48-PC, Manmeet Singh 51-PC, Sharda Nand Tiwari 56-PS, Anmol Ekka-57-PC) bt Argentina 2 (Nicolas Rodriguez 2-PS, Santiago Fernandez 43).

The importance of being Hardik

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NEW CHANDIGARH

Supremely confident and one who plays for the masses – that's Hardik Pandya 101. The flamboyant all-rounder, while fashioning India's 101-run win over South Africa in Cuttack, reached 99 wickets and 100 sixes in T20Is.

These numbers convey an obvious fact. A fit and rearing Hardik will give India the freedom to bat deep without compromising on the bowling front. While Hardik's uninhibited batting smashes constraints, his mere presence gives the skipper a seamer capable of bowling in any phase of the innings.

India went with two front-line pacers in Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh in the first T20I, meaning Hardik was employed after the Power-Play. He found success too, removing David Miller off his first delivery. He has also been used in the first six overs and in the death overs consistently.

Rising to the occasion: Hardik has consistently proven his worth as a consummate all-rounder. AFP

This is the luxury Hardik provides. Since the 2024 T20 World Cup, Hardik has bowled in the first six overs in 17 T20Is.

An economy of 7.42 while scalping five wickets in 168 balls is decent returns from your premier all-rounder.

His middle-over numbers since July 2024 read: eight matches, 84 balls, two wickets at 8.14 rpo.

Arshdeep (nine scalps) is the only Indian pacer to take more wickets than Hardik (eight) in the death overs since the 2024 T20 extravaganza. Hardik's economy rate in the phase stands at 9.53 rpo after dishing out 78 balls in 10 matches.

Hardik is the main character when he wields the bat, and he is equally good at playing the support role with the ball in hand.

"Life has thrown a lot of lemons at me, I've always thought I'll make a lemonade," Hardik told *bcci.tv*.

What's on the menu for Thursday? Only Hardik knows!

Australia, South Africa rally to post wins; India assured of last-eight spot

SQUASH

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Australia, Brazil and South Africa mounted impressive comebacks on day two of the SDAT Squash World Cup 2025 at Express Avenue Mall here.

Australia and Brazil fought back against Poland and Switzerland, respectively, after losing their opening matches due to walkovers. Australia recorded a 3-1 win, and Brazil salvaged a 2-2 draw.

With Brazil and Switzerland playing out a draw, India is now guaranteed a top-two finish in Pool B and a berth in the quarter-finals. India had trounced Switzerland 4-0 on Tuesday.

Smooth sailing: Nardine, foreground, outclassed Fatemeh to give Egypt the early advantage. R. RAGU

The Results: Pool A: South Africa bt Republic of Korea 3-1 (Teagan Russell lost to Song Chaewon 2-7, 4-7, 7-5, 0-7; Dewald Van Niekerk bt Ryu Jeongmin 7-2, 7-5, 7-5; Hayley Ward bt Eum Hwayeong 7-4, 7-6, 7-4; Damian Groenewald bt Ko Youngjo 7-3, 7-4, 7-1).
Pool B: Brazil drew with Switzerland 2-2 (Bruna Marchesi Petrillo w/o Stella Kaufmann; Diego Gobbi bt Louai Hafez 2-7, 7-2, 7-5, 7-4; Laura Silva lost to Celine Walser 2-7, 5-7, 1-7; Pedro Mometto bt Robin Gadola 7-6, 7-3, 7-6).
Pool C: Australia bt Poland 3-1 (Madison Lyon lost to Sofia Zrazhevska (walkover); Joseph White bt Jan Samborski 7-4, 7-3, 7-4; Jessica van der Walt bt Karina Tyma 7-4, 4-7, 7-1, 7-5; Dylan Molinaro bt Kajetan Lipski 7-0, 7-6, 7-3).
Pool D: Egypt bt Iran 4-0 (Nardine Garas bt Fatemeh Falahati 7-4, 7-1, 7-1; Adam Hawal bt Sepehr Etemadpour 7-2, 7-2, 7-0; Nour Heikal bt Fereshteh Eghtedari 7-6, 7-4, 7-2; Ibrahim Elkabbani bt Pouya Shafiefard 7-1, 7-4, 7-3).

INBRIEF

President honours WBC medal-winning Indian boxers

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday honoured the Indian women boxers who brought laurels to the country at the 2025 World Boxing Championships (WBC) held in Liverpool. The gold medal winners Jaismine and Minakshi, silver medallist Nupur and Pooja Rani, who won a bronze, were felicitated by the President.

Nandhidhaa beats Sarayu to stay in the lead

Defending champion P.V. Nandhidhaa beat Velpula Sarayu to maintain her sole lead at the end of the eighth round of the National women's chess championship at Durgapur on Wednesday. She moved to 7.5 points, with three rounds remaining. Shubhi Gupta, whose stunning streak of six wins was ended in the previous round by Nandhidhaa, was in the second position with seven points. On 6.5 points are three players – Mary Ann Gomes, Arshiya Das and G. Shivamshika

The results (eighth round): Velpula Sarayu 5.5 lost to P.V. Nandhidhaa 7.5; Shubhi Gupta 7 bt Kalyani Sirin 5.5; V.C. Nivedita 5.5 lost to Mary Ann Gomes 6.5; Arshiya Das 6.5 bt Ananya Raman 5.5; G. Shivamshika 6.5 bt Sneha Halder 5.5; Swati Ghate 5 lost to Arpita Mukherjee 6; Sannidhi Bhat 5 lost to Srishti Pandey 6; Sakshi Chitlange 5.5 drew with Bristy Mukherjee 5.5; Ganta Kheerthi 6 bt Rajanya Datta 5; Potluri Supreetha 5 lost to V. Varshini 6.

LIVE TELECAST

Tennis Premier League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4.30 p.m.

India vs South Africa: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.

Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

New Zealand vs West Indies: 2nd Test, day 3 Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Friday)

Liverpool edges Inter with late penalty

Chelsea stumbles against Atalanta; Barcelona rides on Kounde's brace to overcome Frankfurt; Bayern posts comeback win over Sporting Lisbon

Coolly done: Liverpool's Szoboszlai slots in the winner from the spot. AP

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Liverpool snatched a 1-0 win away to Inter Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday without unsettled star Mohamed Salah, while Chelsea slipped to defeat against Atalanta and Barcelona overcame Eintracht Frankfurt. Dominik Szoboszlai scored a late penalty as Liverpool snapped Inter's 18-game unbeaten home run in Europe.

Chelsea lost 2-1 at Atalanta despite taking a first-half lead when Joao Pedro poked in a cross from Reece James.

Atalanta is third with 13 points, two adrift of leaders Arsenal and Bayern Munich, while Chelsea dropped down to 11th place.

Bayern came from behind to beat Sporting Lisbon 3-1 as it bounced back from a loss to Arsenal last month.

Jules Kounde emerged as the unlikely hero for Barcelona as the France defender scored a pair of headers in a 2-1 win over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Tottenham eased to a 3-0 home win against Slavia Prague.

The results: Kairat Almaty 0 lost to Olympiacos 1 (Martins 73); Bayern Munich 3 (Gnabry 65, Karl 69, Tah 77) bt Sporting Lisbon 1 (Kimmich 54-og).

Inter Milan 0 lost to Liverpool 1 (Szoboszlai 88-pen); Barcelona 2 (Kounde 50, 53) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Knauff 21).

Atalanta 2 (Scamacca 55, De Ketelaere 83) bt Chelsea 1 (Joao Pedro 25); Tottenham 3 (Zima 26-og, Kudus 50-pen, Simons 79-pen) bt Slavia Prague 0.

PSV Eindhoven 2 (Til 10, Pepi 85) lost to Atletico Madrid 3 (Alvarez 37, Hancko 52, Sorloth 56); Monaco 1 (Balogun 68) bt Galatasaray 0.

Union Saint-Gilloise 2 (Khalaili 5, 71) lost to Marseille 3 (Paixao 15, Greenwood 41, 58).

If we can beat India we are good enough to win the WC: Bangladesh coach Nawaz

U-19 ASIA CUP

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Bangladesh u-19 coach Naveed Nawaz termed India's youth cricket structures as one of the best and considered it a benchmark for other teams to measure up against.

The former Sri Lankan player guided Bangladesh to the 2020 u-19 World Cup title and the Asia Cup last year, beating India in the final on both occasions.

Speaking ahead of the 2025 Asia Cup that gets underway in UAE on December 12, Nawaz cited the examples of current u-19 stars Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre, who impressed many in the IPL earlier this year.

Nawaz. ICC VIA GETTY IMAGES

"I have seen Vaibhav and Ayush in the last Asia Cup and saw them in the IPL as the rising stars. I think this is normal for India to keep producing unbelievable cricketers into the system," he said.

"Indian youth cricket has always been a yardstick. If we can go out there and beat or even play neck-to-neck with India, I think we are good enough to win a World Cup or compete very strongly and make a strong statement on the world stage as well," the 52-year-old added. The continental tournament is a crucial preparatory event for the upcoming Under-19 World Cup, which will be held in Zimbabwe and Namibia from January 16 to February 5, 2026.

Nawaz, who played three ODIs and a Test for Sri Lanka, also felt that the u-19 World Cup triumph was a pivotal moment for Bangladesh cricket.

"I think it was huge, especially for a country like Bangladesh, which had not won an ICC trophy before. It's an inspiration for many young boys and girls who take up cricket, especially at the village level, and commit to the sport," said Nawaz.

(Watch the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2025 live on Sony Sports Network from December 12 to 21, across Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD and Sony Liv)

Kiwis nose ahead but lose Tickner to injury

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

New Zealand fought back to claim first-day honours in the second Test against the West Indies in Wellington, but the home side suffered a blow when seam bowler Blair Tickner was taken to hospital with a nasty shoulder injury.

New Zealand was 24 for no loss at the close of play after bowling the West Indies out for 205 in 75 overs.

Tickner's day ended prematurely when he tumbled onto his shoulder while fielding and left on a stretcher.

Medical staff from the West Indies and Black Caps camps rushed to Tickner's aid before being taken away to an ambulance.

Tickner has a nasty fall. AFP

The scores: West Indies — 1st innings 205 in 75 overs (John Campbell 44, Brandon King 33, Shai Hope 47, Rae 3/66, Tickner 4/32) vs New Zealand — 1st innings 24 for no loss. **Toss:** New Zealand.

Hungarian GM Rapport hoping to be third time lucky at Global Chess League

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

Good concept: Rapport is all praise for the GCL. FIDE

Richard Rapport played for different teams in the first two editions of the Global Chess League (GCL). And it is not going to be any different in the third!

The 29-year-old from Hungary is playing for American Gambits in this year's league, which kicks off in Mumbai on December 14. He had represented Alpine SG Pipers in the first year and Ganges Grandmasters in the second.

Rapport is hoping it would be third time lucky at the GCL. "We hope to play the final and win the tournament," the World No. 13 told *The Hindu* over the phone on Wednesday.

"My teams were good but could not play the final. Last year in London, we had players like Magnus Carlsen, Hou Yifan and R. Praggnanandhaa, and we played very well too, but the results weren't there."

He is glad to be part of the GCL. "I like its concept, and the way the teams are formed, including men and women," said Rapport, who was the second of Ding Liren in his World title match against D. Gukesh last year.

"The way the matches are held is also nice: the games are not played simultaneously, so all of us could follow what is happening on each board."

Looking back at his experience at the GCL, he said he enjoyed it. "Every chess tournament I have played recently had some minor issues, but GCL was very smooth overall," he said. "So overall, it was also very nice. I must admit I had a nicer time in Dubai, but I played better in London."

This is going to be Rapport's second visit to India. The first was for the recent Chess World Cup in Goa. "My performance was a bit below my own expectations at the World Cup," he said.

"It was nice to see so many people turning up to watch the World Cup and the players. Chess can attract a lot of people, who could watch their favourite players from close in, without the help of binoculars, which you will need for games like football."

SNAPSHOTS

Messi wins second consecutive MLS MVP award

Lionel Messi won his second consecutive Major League Soccer Most Valuable Player award on Tuesday after sparking Inter Miami to the MLS title and leading the league in goals.
Messi became the first player to win back-to-back MLS MVP awards. The 38-year-old forward scored 29 goals in the regular season and set up 19 others to claim the MLS Golden Boot.

Karnataka rattles up a big score

Manikanth Shivanand scored a double-century (227) and Dhruv Krishnan a century (105) as Karnataka ended day two of its Cooch Behar U-19 Trophy match versus Odisha at 412 for three.
In the contest in Balangir, the host had made a paltry 170 runs in its first innings, and the away side is now a whopping 242 runs in the green.

The scores: Odisha 170 in 58.4 overs vs. Karnataka 412/3 in 107 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 105, Manikanth Shivanand 227, Anvay Dravid 62 batting).

Tanishka triumphs

Karnataka's Tanishka Kalbhairav beat West Bengal's Ahona Ray 11-6, 11-7, 11-8 in the final to win the U-15 youth girls' title at the Ranchi National-ranking table tennis tournament.

Hannan's century goes in vain

Hannan Zaki Ahmad's century (120) went in vain as Swastic Union CC (2) lost to Vijaya CC by three wickets in the KSCA (Group I) U-14 inter-club tournament in Bengaluru.

The scores: National United 98 in 41.5 overs (Saarish D. Prakash 58) lost to Bangalore SC 96 for no loss in 7.2 overs (Pavandeep R. Bharadakane 67 n.o.).
Herons 152 in 50 overs (Ashwwath Nagarajan 41) lost to Young Lions Club 153/8 in 49.2 overs (Mohammed Yaseen 85).
Malleswaram United 206 in 45 overs (Keerthan Raghu 86) bt Mount Joy 83 in 25.3 overs (G. Jeevan 4/14, Mihir Sudheer Nayak 4/5).
Swastic Union (2) 241/6 in 50 overs (Hannan Zaki Ahmad 120, Mohammed Umair 59) lost to Vijaya 242/7 in 49.1 overs (Ahaan Dash 88, Gagan R. Metre 84).
RVCE Gymkhana 150 in 46 overs (Chirayu Vishesh 55 n.o.) lost to Minerva 151/3 in 40.2 overs (Rajveer Padam Mehta 58 n.o.).
Mathikere 142 in 49.3 overs (Vinjamuri Rushyanth 4/9) lost to Social Cricketers 143/3 in 28.3 overs (Athreya Bhat 58 n.o., Hridaan Sai 43).
City Gymkhana 108 in 39.2 overs (Bhairav Gowda 56) lost to Swastic Union (1) 110/1 in 17.2 overs (Hrithvik Shetty 54 n.o.).
Century Cricketers 56 in 37.2 overs (Aaryan Nagesh 4/12) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 57 for no loss in 10.5 overs (Prabhav Pydah 44 n.o.).

Narrow win for Empire FC

Empire FC edged out Md. Sporting FC 2-1 in the BDFA B-division league football championship on Wednesday.

The results: Empire FC 2 (M. Muhammed Ijas 27, 54) bt Md. Sporting FC 1 (Bawanlum Lang Thang 9); Vehicles FC 1 (L. Athing Dang Sangtam 78) drew with Al Fateh FC 1 (Zaib Sherief 3).
Young Blues Elite FC 2 (Elroy Jacob Elvis 55, G. Prince Alwin 56) bt Infinite Belagavi FC 1 (Basavaraj Shrishail Baraker 56).

CITY CORPORATION, VIJAYAPUR
No:VCC/PWD/EE/DM/TND/E-proc-/2025-26 Dated: 08.12.2025
KPP PORTAL SHORT NOTIFICATION
Executive Engineer, City Corporation Vijayapur invites tenders from eligible tenders registered the 1) 01 work under SFC SCSP Fund 2025-26, 2) 01 work under Corporation 24.10% Fund 2025-26, 3) 01 work under SFC 7.25% Fund 2025-26, 4) 02 works under 15th Finance 2025-26 Fund, 5) 08 works under Corporation Fund and 6) 04 works Quotation Rate Tenders are called in standard tender document through KPP portal. For further details visit online web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.
Note: 1) Tender Corrigendum and Addendum will be issued in kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.
1) Last date for Tender submission: **18.12.2025**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, City Corporation, Vijayapur
ಪಾಸಾಸಂಖ್ಯ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/524/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2025–26

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342
E-mail: director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in
No: BMCRI/SUP(1)/41/2025-26 Dated: 10-12-2025
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
E-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the **Purchase of Medical Equipment for Victoria Hospital, BMCRI, Bengaluru.**
The tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 11-12-2025** and Last Date for Submission of Tenders through e-Procurement Portal is **12-01-2026 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with EMD will be rejected.
For further details contact **Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.**
Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/4369/Adverto/2025-26

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
(Electrical) Section
Contact No.0240-2333536-40
Office Address: Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation (Electrical) Section. Town Hall, Aurangabad.431001
Email:- eelight@aurangabadmahapalika.org

	Name of work	Bid Submission End Date
1	Shifting of MSEDCL DTC, Pole, HT/LT line due to road widening and obstruction to traffic at newly developing roads in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (**Tender Amount 23,70,51,217/-**) by the e-tendering, detailed information /(NIT) documents are available on the website https://www.mahatenders.gov.in	Date.20.12.2025 Time 5.00 PM

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO - 12/2025-26
Dated : 10-12-2025
The Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist.on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore has invited tender through e-procurement **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for 10 No. of works Amounting from Rs. 399.49 Lakhs to Rs. 16.87 Lakhs and on EMD As per KPPP Portal. Any further information Or Clarification for the above said work including last date, opening date, Pre-bid meeting date, EMD, etc., can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Kashipur Circle, Shivamogga-577204.
SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS KW-1, 2 & 3
IFT No.: 28/2025-26. Dated: 09.12.2025
The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Division, Shivamogga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document KW-1, KW-2 and KW-3 through kpp-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the works coming under M.I sub-divisions SORABA and SHIVAMOGGA amounting from Rs.3.40 lakhs to Rs. 68.00 lakhs.. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 09.12.2025 to 16.12.2025 upto 17:00 hrs. Tender opening date at 17.15 hrs on 17.12.2025. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website @ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.
Sd/- Executive Engineer M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.
DIPR/smg/KSMCA/25-26/43/12/1364